#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

ERIN HUNTER

WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVEL

THE NEW PROPHECY | PART 1 OF 3

ADAPTED BY **GIBSON TWIST**

ILLUSTRATED BY **SAMMY SAVOS**

WARRIORS

THE NEW PROPHECY
GRAPHIC NOVEL

PART ONE OF THREE

FOR EMILY ANNE. A TRUE WARRIORS FAN, MY
TRUSTED ADVISOR, MY LITTLE SISTER,
MY BEST FRIEND. –SS

TO A FANCY LITTLE MAN WE CALLED COOPER.
HE NEVER TOLD US HIS REAL NAME. –GT

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FIRST EDITION

WARRIORS

THE NEW PROPHECY
GRAPHIC NOVEL

4

PART ONE OF THREE

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HARPER alley
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PROLOGUE

ONE NIGHT IN STARCLAN...

STEP

A NEW PROPHECY HAS COME.

A DOOM THAT HAS BEEN FORETOLD IN THE STARS.

I HAVE SEEN THIS TOO. A GREAT CHALLENGE COMES.

DARKNESS, AIR, WATER, AND SKY.

TOGETHER, THEY WILL SHAKE THE FOREST TO ITS ROOTS.

A GREAT STORM IS COMING!

CAN NOTHING BE DONE TO STOP IT? NOT EVEN THE COURAGE AND SPIRIT OF THE GREATEST WARRIOR?

NO. THE DOOM WILL COME. BUT IF THE CLANS MEET IT LIKE WARRIORS, THEY MAY SURVIVE.

FOUR CATS MUST BE CHOSEN TO CARRY THE FATE OF THE CLANS. EACH CLAN HERE WILL CHOOSE A CHAMPION.

OAKHEART, WILL YOU CHOOSE FOR RIVERCLAN?

I WILL.

NOD

AN... INTERESTING CHOICE.

DOES IT NOT PLEASE YOU, BLUESTAR? WAS SHE NOT WELL-MENTORED?

SHE WAS EXCELLENTLY MENTORED. DOES THE REST OF STARCLAN AGREE?

I DO.

NOD

I DO.

I DO.

I OFFER A CHAMPION FOR SHADOWCLAN.

SEE AND APPROVE IT.

SHE HAS STRENGTH AND COURAGE, BUT NIGHTSTAR...IS SHE LOYAL?

SHE WASN'T BORN IN SHADOWCLAN!

DOES THAT MEAN SHE IS UNWORTHY?

IF THE CLAN CANNOT SHOW TRUST, WE WILL BE DESTROYED.

DOES STARCLAN APPROVE?

I DO.

I DO.

I DO.

MY TURN, I THINK.

SEE AND APPROVE WINDCLAN'S CHAMPION.

WHAT? THAT'S AN APPRENTICE!

I HAD NOTICED, THANK YOU, OAKHEART.

HE HAS THE COURAGE AND SKILL OF ANY WARRIOR.

ONE DAY, HE COULD LEAD WINDCLAN.

ONE DAY IS NOT NOW. CHOOSE ANOTHER.

THIS IS MY CHOICE. I DARE ANY OF YOU TO SHOW HIM UNWORTHY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? DOES STARCLAN APPROVE?

I DO.

I DO...

I DO...

I DO.

YOU HAVEN'T CHOSEN FOR THUNDERCLAN, BLUESTAR.

NO, BUT I AM READY.

BLUESTAR, YOU NEVER CEASE TO SURPRISE ME.

HE IS A NOBLE YOUNG CAT, FIT FOR THE CHALLENGE.

DID I SAY HE WAS NOT?

DOES STARCLAN APPROVE?

I DO!

I DO!

I DO.

I DO!

WHOOOOSHHHH

WE HAVE MADE OUR CHOICES.

BEYOND SHOWING THEM THEIR PATH, WE CANNOT DO MORE.

REMEMBER, THE CLANS WILL BE LOST IF EVEN ONE OF OUR WARRIORS SHOULD WEAKEN OR FAIL.

CATS OF STARCLAN, GO TO YOUR WARRIORS. MAKE THEM READY. THE JOURNEY MUST BEGIN.

MAY THE SPIRITS OF OUR WARRIOR ANCESTORS GO WITH THEM...

PART ONE: MIDNIGHT

...WHEREVER THE STARS MAY LEAD.

TWITCH

MUNCH

MUNCH

?

?

?

?

BRAMBLECLAW...

TROUBLES ARE COMING TO THE FOREST...

BLUESTAR? IS THAT YOU? I THOUGHT YOU WERE--

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, ALONG WITH THREE OTHERS, TO MEET AT THE NEW MOON AND LISTEN TO WHAT MIDNIGHT HAS TO TELL YOU.

WHAT CAN MIDNIGHT TELL ME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

ALL WILL BE REVEALED TO YOU, BRAMBLECLAW... BRAMBLECLAW...

BRA BRAMBLECLAW!

BLUESTAR--?

WAKE UP, KIT! ALL THAT NOISE, YOU'LL SCARE OFF THE PREY FROM HERE TO SUNNINGROCKS.

I WAS DREAMING... MAYBE. TOO MUCH FRESH-KILL LAST NIGHT, I GUESS.

DREAMING, HMM?

YOU KNOW, FIRESTAR HAD VIVID DREAMS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

WHO KNOWS?

FLICK

M

MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL LEAD THUNDERCLAN TOO.

THE NURSERY
FIRESTAR'S DEN
HIGHROCK
MEDICINE CATS' DEN
THE ELDERS' DEN
THE WARRIORS' DEN
THE APPRENTICES' DEN
SHAKE THOSE DREAMS OFF, NOW. THE DAY AHEAD IS LONG.
GORSE TUNNEL
IS THERE TIME FOR A QUICK HUNT BEFORE--
SIGH
OOF!
BEFORE MY WARRIOR CEREMONY?!
YES, SORRELPAW. BEFORE YOUR WARRIOR CEREMONY.

FINALLY! I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG!

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN INJURED BY THOSE TWOLEGS, YOU WOULD'VE BEEN A WARRIOR BEFORE THE SNOW FELL.

I'M SO EXCITED! MY FIRST CLAN GATHERING AS A WARRIOR!

YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?

WOULDN'T MISS IT!

TIME FOR A HUNT BEFORE THE CEREMONY?

THORNCLAW AND ASHFUR ARE WAITING AT THE GORSE TUNNEL.

HUNTING?!

UGH... NOT AGAIN.

YOU'RE GOING HUNTING? NOW? CAN I COME?!

HELLO, SQUIRRELPAW. NO, YOU MAY NOT.

YOU'RE STILL AN APPRENTICE. YOU SHOULD BE HUNTING WITH YOUR MENTOR, DUSTPELT.

YOU CAN COME WITH US WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. YOU'RE BARELY OLDER THAN I AM!

BUT I'M A WARRIOR!

WELL, MAYBE SUCH A SEASONED WARRIOR CAN LEAD THE WAY!
HOW ABOUT... SUNNINGROCKS?
SUNNINGROCKS?
POP!
ARE YOU MOUSE-BRAINED?
IT'LL BE COVERED IN SNAKES!
NOT THIS EARLY, IT WON'T.
IT'S STILL TOO COOL.
NOT NOW, SQUIRRELPAW. BRAVE AS YOU ARE, I'M SURE YOU HAVE CHORES.

CHEER UP!

THERE'S MORE TO DO TODAY THAN HUNTING!

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, LEAFPAW. YOU'RE A MEDICINE CAT; YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE!

THEY TREAT ME LIKE A KIT. BUT I'M FIRESTAR'S DAUGHTER!

I JUST FEEL LIKE I CAN DO MORE.

YOU REMEMBER WE'RE SISTERS, RIGHT?

RUB

FLASH

RUSTLE~

SNIFF SNIFF

SQUIRRELPAW?!
SNICKER
YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN THE FOREST ALONE.
DOES DUSTPELT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?
I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TELL HIM.
CAN'T I JOIN YOU? PLEASE DON'T SEND ME BACK.
IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO DECIDE WHEN TO HUNT, APPRENTICE.
YES, ASHFUR.

WE CAN'T SEND HER BACK ON HER OWN.

SHE'LL HAVE TO COME WITH US.

THANK YOU! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY. I PROMISE!

I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT.

LOOM

DON'T THINK YOU WON'T BE IN TROUBLE WHEN WE RETURN.

THE WHOLE FOREST MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE IF IT GETS IN YOUR WAY, HMM?

THE FOREST *IS* IN TROUBLE...

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL HEAD BACK PAST THE OLD DOG CAVE.

WE'LL FIND MORE FRESH-KILL ON THE WAY.

WAIT.

FOR WHAT, MORE *NOT* HUNTING?

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, YOUNG APPRENTICE.

BE AWARE OF WHAT'S AROUND YOU.

NOT JUST WHAT YOU SEE, BUT WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

WHAT DO YOU SMELL?

SNIFF SNIFF

SNIFF SNIFF

A MOUSE! CAN I HUNT IT?

NOT NOW. WHAT ELSE DO YOU SMELL?

SOMETHING... STRANGE. I'VE NEVER SMELLED IT BEFORE.

I KNOW WHAT IT IS.

BADGER.

NO DOUBT IT'S TAKEN SHELTER IN THE OLD DOG CAVE AHEAD.

WE SHOULD FIND ANOTHER PATH HOME.

AGREED. WE CAN--

KKKH

FFF!!!

RUN!!

HISSS!!

HISSS!!

SNAP!

HUFF!

COULD THIS BE THE BADGER THAT KILLED WILLOWPELT?

WE SHOULD GO AFTER IT! FIVE WARRIOR CATS CAN BEAT *ONE* BADGER!

NO.

NO FIVE CATS OF ANY CLAN COULD BEST A BADGER IN A FIGHT.

THEY'D KILL YOU, NOT FOR FOOD, BUT BECAUSE THEY *CAN*!

IF YOU SEE A BADGER...

ANY BADGER...

YOU RUN.

THE CEREMONY'S STARTING.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

SQUIRRELPAW!

HURRY

OH, YEAH.

HI.

I WAS HOPING NO CAT NOTICED I LEFT.

NO, YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FOR SURE.

TODAY WE JOURNEY TO THE GATHERING OF THE CLANS AT FOURTREES.

BUT FIRST, WE WELCOME A NEW WARRIOR TO THE CLAN!

SORRELPAW, YOU STAND BEFORE YOUR CLAN.

YOUR MENTOR, SANDSTORM, HAS ATTESTED TO YOUR SKILL AND BRAVERY,

YOUR STRENGTH AND WILL TO SURVIVE A TWOLEG ATTACK,

AND YOUR RETURN TO WARRIOR TRAINING.

YOU EMBODY THE SPIRIT AND COURAGE OF STARCLAN AND THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE.

DO YOU PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE WARRIOR CODE? TO DEFEND AND PROTECT YOUR CLAN, EVEN WITH YOUR LIFE?

I DO.

THEN I CALL UPON THE ANCESTORS OF THUNDERCLAN TO WELCOME YOU, OUR NEWEST WARRIOR.

SORRELTAIL!

SORRELTAIL!

SORRELTAIL!

NOW, WITH ME TO FOURTREES! TO THE GATHERING!

SORRELTAIL!

SORRELTAIL!

NOT YOU.

AWW...

WE'RE HERE.

FIRST TIME AT THE GATHERING, SORRELTAIL?

I--

FIRESTAR! GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

A PLEASURE AS ALWAYS, MISTYFOOT.

I HOPE THUNDERCLAN ISN'T LAST TO ARRIVE.

YOU CAN COUNT ON SHADOWCLAN TO KEEP US WAITING.

DO YOU KNOW OUR NEWEST WARRIORS? HAWKFROST AND MOTHWING.

ONLY BY REPUTATION.

YOUR MOTHER WAS A ROGUE CAT, YES?

YES, BUT MY SISTER AND I ARE RIVERCLAN TO THE END.

AND THIS IS ONE OF THUNDERCLAN'S FINE YOUNG WARRIORS--

BRAMBLECLAW. YES...

TIGERSTAR'S KIT.

UH...HI.

I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

I SHOULD TAKE MY PLACE.

GOOD LUCK, FIRESTAR.

DOES HE NEED LUCK?

LET'S SAY I HOPE THE GATHERING GOES WELL.

IS--IS THE FOREST IN TROUBLE?

THE FOREST--? WHAT AN ODD THING TO ASK.

OUT OF THE WAY, THUNDERCLAN.

BUMP!

CROWPAW!

IS THAT HOW A WINDCLAN APPRENTICE BEHAVES?

NO, MISTYFOOT.

LET'S SEE YOU BACK TO YOUR MENTOR, SHALL WE?

YES, MISTYFOOT.

BRAMBLECLAW,

HAVE YOU MET MY KITS, FEATHERTAIL AND STORMFUR?

NOT SINCE WE WERE APPRENTICES.

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BRAMBLECLAW.

OUR FATHER SPEAKS HIGHLY OF YOU.

BETTER FIND A COMFORTABLE PLACE.

SHADOWCLAN IS ARRIVING.

IS TAWNYPELT WITH THEM?

YOUR SISTER? I DON'T SEE HER.

GOOD LUCK FINDING HER. MAYBE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, BLACKSTAR.

IS SHADOWCLAN READY TO BEGIN?

NO NEED TO DRAG OUR TAILS.

SHADOWCLAN HAS LITTLE NEWS. THE DROUGHT THIS SEASON HAS STRAINED OUR WATER SUPPLY. AS IT HAS FOR US ALL.

IT HAS BEEN A STRUGGLE, BUT WE ARE MAKING DO FOR NOW.

THERE IS NO MORE TO SHARE FROM SHADOWCLAN.

FORTHCOMING AS ALWAYS, BLACKSTAR.

WINDCLAN HASN'T FARED AS WELL, I'M AFRAID.

WE COME TONIGHT TO ASK RIVERCLAN THAT WE BE ALLOWED TO CROSS INTO YOUR TERRITORY.

TO DRINK FROM THE RIVER IN YOUR LANDS.

THIS IS NOT A SMALL THING TO ASK.

I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT WINDCLAN HAS HELPED THE OTHER CLANS WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN IN NEED.

WE ONLY ASK THAT THE KINDNESS BE RETURNED.

YOUR POINT IS WELL MADE.

FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON, UNTIL THE RAIN COMES,

WINDCLAN MAY DRINK FROM RIVERCLAN WATERS.

YOU MAY DRINK FROM THE AREA NEAR THE TWOLEG BRIDGE. BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO HUNT.

IF THIS IS FAIR TO YOU, THEN RIVERCLAN AGREES.

NOD

WINDCLAN AGREES.

HOW DO YOU THINK THAT'LL GO?

TAWNYPELT!

GLAD YOU MADE IT.

MARK MY WORDS.

LEOPARDSTAR WILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE WINDCLAN PAY FOR THAT WATER.

THE RAIN WILL COME SOON. THE RIVER WILL FLOW AGAIN.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT. BUT IT FEELS SOMEHOW LIKE...

THE FOREST IS IN TROUBLE.

YOU HAD THE DREAM!

YOU HAD IT TOO?

I WAS STARTING TO THINK IT WASN'T REAL, BUT I COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT IT MEANT SOMETHING.

BLUESTAR CAME TO ME. SHE SAID, "LISTEN TO WHAT MIDNIGHT TELLS YOU."

FOR ME IT WAS NIGHTSTAR. SHADOWCLAN'S LEADER BEFORE TIGERSTAR.

I SUPPOSE STARCLAN WOULDN'T SEND OUR FATHER.

NOT AFTER WHAT HE DID.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

AND WHO ARE THE OTHER TWO CATS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO JOIN US?

THEY COULD BE ANY CAT.

TAWNYPELT!

UGH, SORRY, I HAVE TO GO.

BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE.

BLACKSTAR DOESN'T LIKE TO LINGER.

MEET ME BACK HERE ON THE NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON.

WHY THE NEW MOON?

THAT'S WHEN NIGHTSTAR TOLD ME TO MEET THE OTHERS.

THIS ISN'T WORK FOR A WARRIOR APPRENTICE.

IS IT APPRENTICE WORK TO DISOBEY ORDERS AND WORRY THE CLAN?

ANYWAY, THIS IS WHAT MEDICINE CATS DO EVERY DAY.

DROP

AND YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT IT!

BUT I'M A WARRIOR APPRENTICE!

MY ROLE IS TO HUNT AND PROTECT THE CLAN.

I CAN'T DO WHAT YOU DO.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN.

YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN NOT TO.

YOU CAN START BY DOING YOUR CHORES.

=SNIFF=

"SNORT=

ALL RIGHT. WHO'S GOT TICKS?

SIGH

!

BRAMBLECLAW? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU SNEAKING?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING. WORRY ABOUT THE ELDERS AND THEIR TICKS.

FORGET I ASKED.

YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY STRANGE DREAMS LATELY, HAVE YOU?

I ONLY DREAM ABOUT MOSS AND TICKS NOW.

NEVER MIND.

PACE

PACE

PACE

MAYBE THIS WAS A MISTAKE.

RUSTLE

I-IS SOME CAT HERE?

WHO'S THERE?

SQUIRRELPAW?!

I KNEW YOU WERE SNEAKING!

DID YOU... HAVE THE DREAM TOO?

NO. YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THAT BEFORE. WHAT DREAM?

NEVER MIND!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, THEN?

BEING NOSY?

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING.

AND I WAS RIGHT!

AND YOU WOULDN'T MAKE A DEFENSELESS APPRENTICE GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THUNDERCLAN ALONE, WOULD YOU?

WHAT WOULD GRAYSTRIPE THINK?

HE MIGHT GET NERVOUS THAT TIGERSTAR'S KITS WERE CROSSING CLAN BOUNDARIES FOR A CONSPIRACY.

OOOOHH

WAIT. A CONSPIRACY? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, FEATHERTAIL.

YOU WERE RIGHT; THE OTHER CATS DID COME.

FEATHERTAIL? STORMFUR? YOU BOTH HAD THE DREAM?

WHAT DREAM?

NOT ME, ONLY FEATHERTAIL. I DIDN'T WANT HER COMING ALONE.

SO IS THIS ALL FOUR OF US?

FOUR?

JUST THREE STILL. SQUIRRELPAW HASN'T HAD THE DREAM EITHER.

THEN WHAT'S SHE EVEN DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY?

WHAT ARE ANY OF YOU DOING HERE?

DEADFOOT SAID THERE WOULD ONLY BE THREE OF YOU!

THIS... APPRENTICE? HE HAD THE DREAM?

HE'S WORSE THAN SQUIRRELPAW!

HEY!

AND WHAT DREAM?!

WHY ARE CATS FROM ALL FOUR CLANS MEETING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!

WE WERE...CALLED HERE. BY STARCLAN.

WE THINK IT MIGHT BE A NEW PROPHECY.

PROPHECY? I'M IN!

NO, YOU'RE NOT.

NEITHER ARE YOU!

CAN EVERY CAT JUST RELAX?

NO CAT'S GIVING YOU ORDERS HERE. STARCLAN HAS GIVEN US A QUEST.

YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, THUNDERCLAN.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

WE WERE VISITED IN DREAMS BY OUR STARCLAN ELDERS. THEY TOLD US TO GATHER AND LISTEN TO WHAT MIDNIGHT TELLS US.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHAT IS MIDNIGHT GOING TO SAY?

WE DON'T KNOW. WE WERE HOPING TO FIND OUT.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BACK TO WINDCLAN BEFORE ANY CAT NOTICES I'M GONE.

MY WARRIOR CEREMONY IS TOO CLOSE TO RISK IT ON THIS.

SO YOU'RE ALL AS CLUELESS AS I AM? THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.

BUT... STARCLAN IS--

NOT MY PROBLEM. LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIGURE IT OUT.

MIDNIGHT HAS PASSED AND NOTHING HAPPENED.

WE DON'T NEED HIM.

STARCLAN THOUGHT WE DID.

HE'LL BE WITH US WHEN IT MATTERS.

IF YOU NEED AN APPRENTICE, I COULD--

NO!

HE HAS A POINT. NOTHING HAPPENED AT MIDNIGHT. LET'S STAY IN TOUCH, IN CASE WE LEARN MORE.

YEAH. GOOD IDEA.

THIS WAS STRANGE, BUT I HOPE IT WORKS OUT.

SEE YOU SOON, I HOPE.

GOOD LUCK.

GOOD MORNING, LEAFPAW. DID YOU SLEEP WELL?

I'M NOT SURE.

STREETCHH

LET'S HOPE SO! IT'S A FULL DAY AHEAD OF US.

WHAT WERE YOU UP TO LAST NIGHT?

WHAT? UP TO? ME? NOTHING!

YOU CAN TELL ME. I FELT YOU RUNNING THROUGH THE FOREST.

NAH, YOU WERE JUST DREAMING!

YOU MEDICINE CATS, YOU'RE ALWAYS HAVING A VISION ABOUT SOMETHING!

WELL, I SHOULD GO. BACK TO TRAINING! SEE YOU.

FFFFFSSSSHHHHHH

SSSHHH!!!

SSSSHHH!!!

GASP!

HELP!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? KEEP QUIET. LET THE REST OF US SLEEP.

JUST A DREAM... BUT WHY DO I TASTE SALT?

TWOLEGS ARE ALWAYS DOING STRANGE THINGS, RAVENPAW.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

SO MANY OF THEM GATHERING ALONG THE THUNDERPATH.

AND THEIR MONSTERS ARE GREATER AND SMELL FOULER THAN I COULD IMAGINE.

EAVESDROP...

I'M GRATEFUL YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM YOUR FARM TO TELL US, BUT WE'RE FAR FROM THE THUNDERPATH.

I UNDER-STAND.

SINCE IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, I'LL SEE IT FOR MYSELF. WAIT HERE, I'LL GATHER GRAYSTRIPE AND SANDSTORM.

THANK YOU, FIRESTAR.

HELLO, YOUNG WARRIOR. YOU LOOK TROUBLED.

I HAD A VERY STRANGE DREAM. IT WAS SO REAL.

I WAS IN A GREAT RIVER WITH STONE CLIFFS AROUND ME.

AND THE WATER TASTED... SALTY?

THEN I SAW SO MUCH WATER, AND THE SUN FELL INTO IT. LIKE IT WAS DROWNING.

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU HAD A VISION.

A VISION?

ON THE FARM WHERE I LIVE, ROGUE CATS VISIT WHO SPEAK OF A GREAT WATER WHERE THE SUN DISAPPEARS.

VERY FAR FROM HERE. MANY DAYS' TRAVEL, AT LEAST.

HOW COULD IT BE REAL?

STARCLAN'S MESSAGES AREN'T OFTEN CLEAR AT FIRST.

BUT...WHY WOULD STARCLAN SEND *ME* A VISION AND NOT FIRESTAR?

I'M SURE FIRESTAR ASKED HIMSELF THE SAME QUESTION ONCE OR TWICE.

TRUST STARCLAN. YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

I HAVE TO FIND THE OTHERS.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO RIVERCLAN ALONE, BRAMBLECLAW.

I COULDN'T WAIT. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS SUN-DROWN-PLACE IS REAL.

FEATHERTAIL DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF VISION. YOU PROBABLY JUST FELL AND HIT YOUR HEAD.

RAVENPAW IS A TRUSTWORTHY CAT.

I BELIEVE HIM.

MORE MESSAGES FROM STARCLAN? AREN'T *YOU* SPECIAL!

WE'LL GO WITH YOU TO WINDCLAN.

RAVENPAW IS A FRIEND TO YOUR CLAN AS HE IS TO OURS.

IF HE SAYS THE VISION IS REAL, WE SHOULD TAKE HIS WORD.

THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT I'M NOT GOING. I'M NOT BREAKING THE WARRIOR CODE BEFORE I'VE EVEN HAD MY WARRIOR CEREMONY!

BUT YOU HAVE TO COME WITH US!

PLEASE, CROWPAW! THE MISSION MIGHT FAIL WITHOUT YOU. YOU WERE CHOSEN--THE ONLY APPRENTICE SINGLED OUT BY STARCLAN.

THEY MUST BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN DO THIS.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME.

JUST DON'T START TELLING ME WHAT TO DO. DREAMS OR NO DREAMS!

SO WE HAVE TO WALK TO THE END OF THE WORLD WHERE THE SUN FALLS INTO THE...BIG POND?

YES.

I MUST BE AS MOUSE-BRAINED AS YOU.

I'LL GO.

AND YOUR APPRENTICE FRIEND? IS SHE TAGGING ALONG?

I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD TELL HER.

IT'LL BE DANGEROUS AND SHE *IS* STILL AN APPRENTICE.

SHE SEEMS TO FIND TROUBLE WHEREVER SHE GOES ANYWAY.

I THINK SHE ENJOYS A BIT OF DANGER.

BRAMBLECLAW! ANY NEWS?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

I HAD ANOTHER VISION. THE CHOSEN CATS, WE'RE GOING ON A JOURNEY FAR AWAY.
WE'RE LEAVING ON THE HALF MOON.

I'M TELLING YOU SO YOU WON'T WORRY OR TRY TO FOLLOW US.

OH, SURE! I WON'T FOLLOW YOU! NOPE! WON'T DO IT!

YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW US, AREN'T YOU?
IF YOU INSIST!

DON'T WALK SO CLOSE TO ME.

CROWPAW IS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.

ANOTHER MORNING HUNT, IS IT?

LEAFPAW! WE WERE-- BRAMBLECLAW, HE--

STOP. I DON'T CARE IF YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH, BUT PLEASE.

STOP LYING TO ME.

I'M NOT--

--DOING IT TO HURT YOU. I'M SORRY.

IS IT DANGEROUS? WHEREVER YOU'RE GOING?

WE HOPE NOT. BUT IT COULD BE.

WE'LL KEEP HER SAFE. I PROMISE.

THERE ARE MORE OF YOU?

NO, DON'T TELL ME. IF I DON'T KNOW, I CAN'T TELL ANY OTHER CAT.

THANK YOU.

MAKE IT UP TO ME BY COMING HOME SAFELY.

RUB

TAKE THESE TRAVELING HERBS.

YOU'LL NEED THEM TO KEEP UP YOUR STRENGTH.

THANK YOU.

WE'LL TAKE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

MUNCH

=SNIFF=

MUNCH

=SNIFF!=

PLIP!

SNIFF
SNIFF

THERE IT IS.

RAVENPAW'S FARM.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAY HERE TONIGHT.

=SNIFF=

=SNIFF=

THERE BETTER NOT BE ANY TWOLEGS HERE.

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH! WE'LL BE SAFE.

TRY TO BE NICE.

I'M ALWAYS NICE.

RAVENPAW!

I THOUGHT I SMELLED THUNDERCLAN!

AND OTHER CLANS AS WELL? I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO HEAR AN INCREDIBLE STORY.

WE'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE TALE IF WE CAN SHELTER HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE. COME WITH ME.

BARLEY CAN BE... PARTICULAR ABOUT NEW FACES.

SO...YOUR CLANS DON'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

NOT EXACTLY.

YOU WON'T TELL FIRESTAR, WILL YOU?

OH, I'LL BE TELLING ALL OF YOUR CLAN LEADERS.

AS SOON AS I SEE THEM. IT COULD BE A WHILE.

PHEW!

SIGH...

BUT IT'S A LONG JOURNEY AND VERY DANGEROUS.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH?

HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW.

WISE ANSWER.

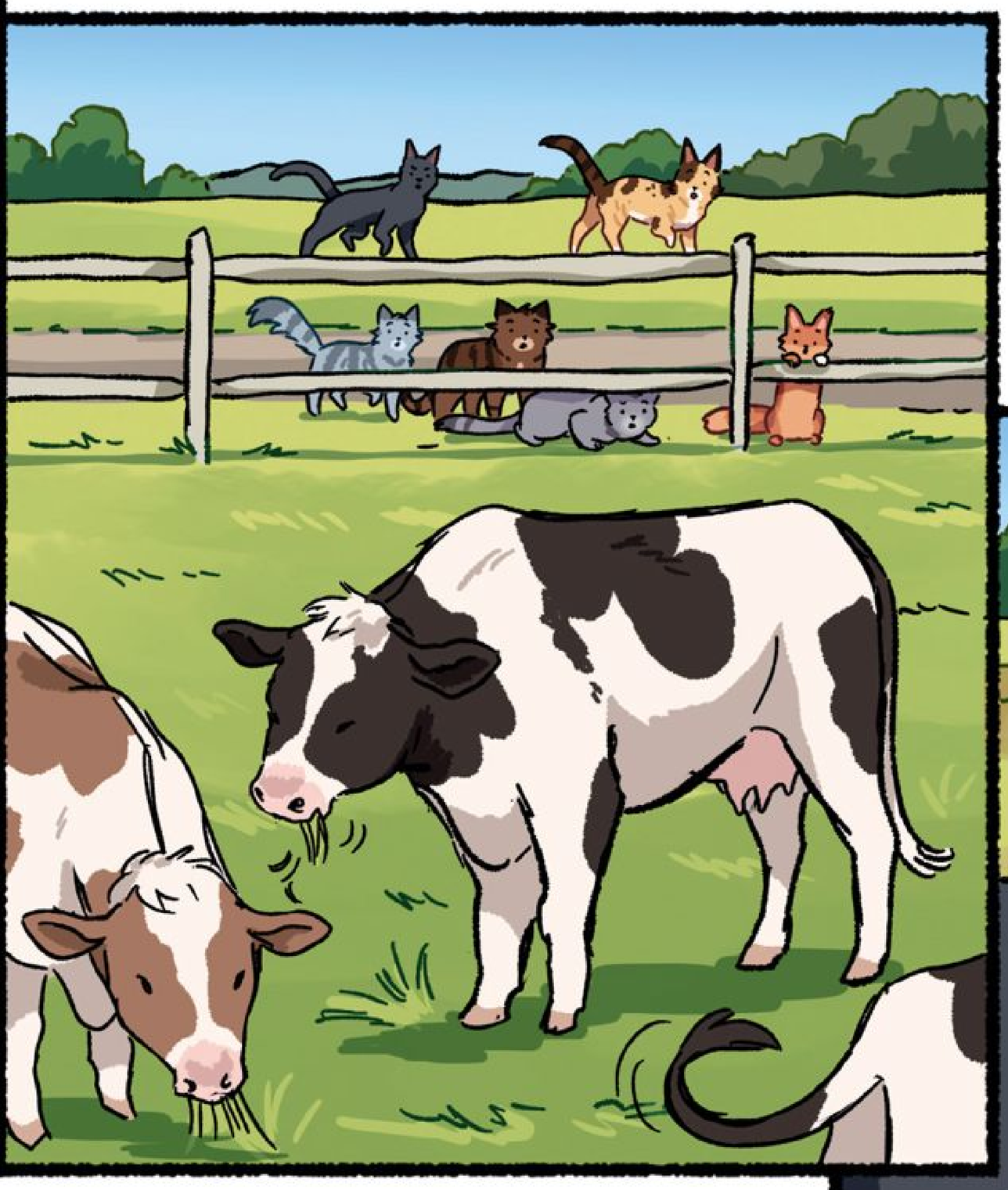
GET SOME REST, THEN.

THERE'S PLENTY OF PREY HERE TO FILL YOUR BELLIES BEFORE YOU MOVE ON.

REMEMBER, FOLLOW THE SUN. IT'LL GUIDE YOU TO WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

MAY STARCLAN LIGHT YOUR PATH.

THANK YOU, RAVENPAW. I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN SOON.



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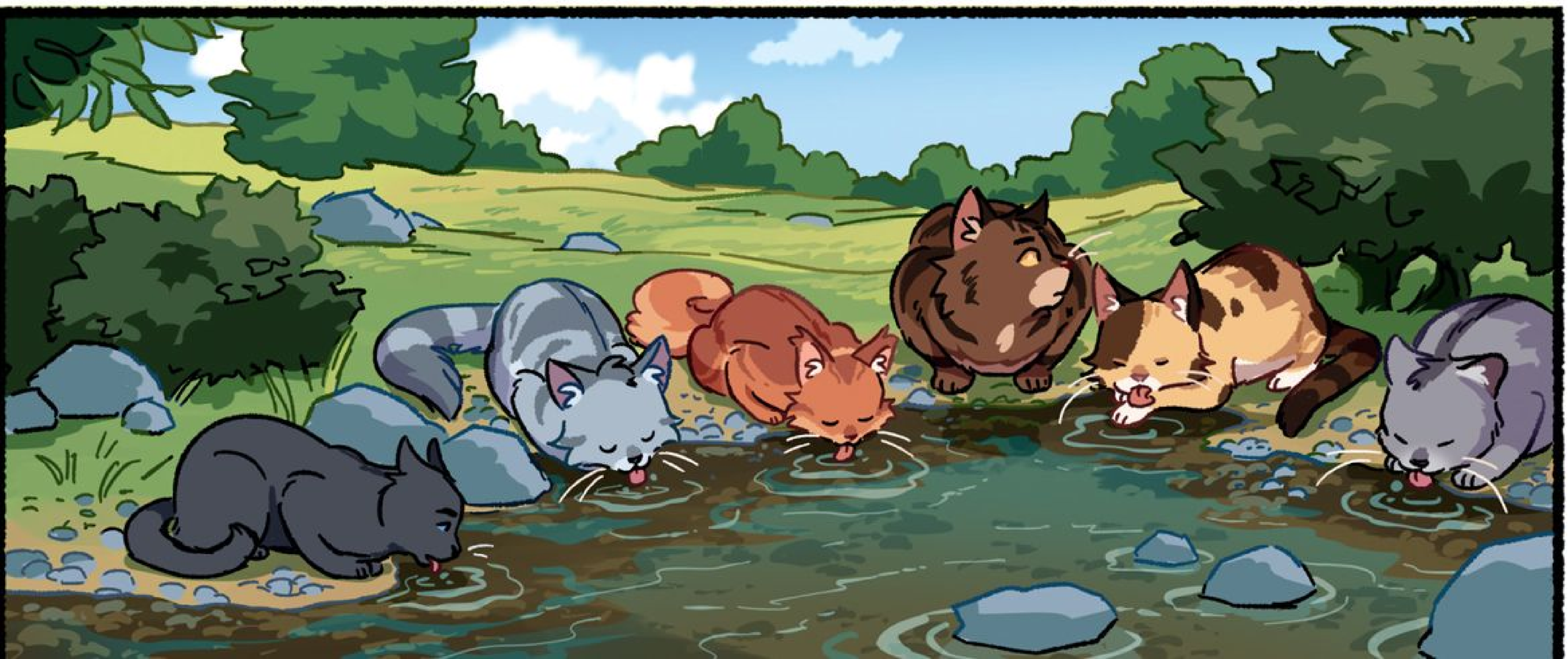
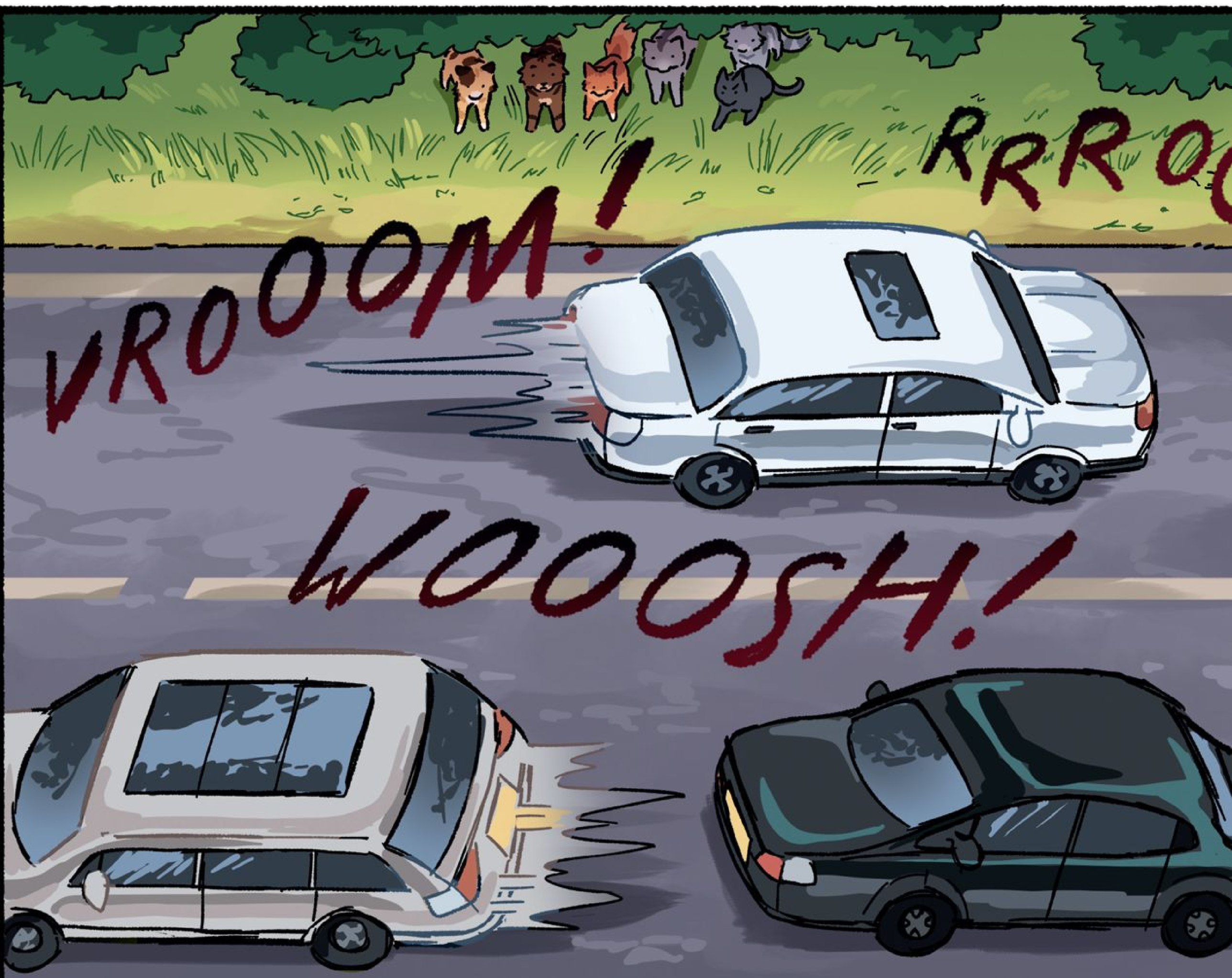
?
??
HA HA
HA
HA!



CRNCH


RRROOO
VROOOM!
WOOOSH!

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE SO--

TERRIFYING.

WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THAT HEDGE. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AHEAD.

WE JUST HAVE TO GET PAST IT. AND TRUST WE CAN HANDLE WHATEVER IS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

TRUST IN STARCLAN.

GO! GO!!

KRRSH!

WE MADE IT! WE--

PANT PANT PANT PANT PANT PANT

IS THAT A... DOG?

WHAT IS THAT?!

THE FENCE! GO FOR THE FENCE!

WAS THAT A TWOLEG KIT? IT WAS FEROCIOUS!

HISSS!!!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE STORMFUR!

DO YOU SMELL THAT? IS IT--?

BARK BA

RUN! RUN! BIGGER DOG! BIGGER DOG!

!!!!

HISSS!!

MRRREWW!!

GRRMM!

HHHSS!!

HISSS!!

WE HAVE TO HELP THEM! THERE'S NO WAY OUT!

FWISH!

HISS!!

SWIPE

CROWPAW! STORMFUR! RUN TO THE NEXT FENCE!

THAT TWOLEG DEN! IT LOOKS ABANDONED! WE CAN HIDE THERE.

IS ANY CAT HURT?

NOTHING A FEW LICKS WON'T HEAL.

HA HA! YOU TOOK ORDERS FROM BRAMBLECLAW!

NO! I WAS GONNA DO IT ANYWAY!

IS EVERY CAT READY FOR TODAY?

WE SHOULD FIND FOOD AND WATER SOON.

I FOUND A PUDDLE JUST OUTSIDE, BUT WE CAN'T DRINK IT. IT TASTES LIKE SALT.

THERE MUST BE PREY AROUND. IS THERE WATER ANYWHERE?

YAAWN

I DRANK FROM IT THIS MORNING. IT TASTED FINE TO ME.

I HAD SOME TOO, IT--WAIT, IT TASTED LIKE SALT?

IT WAS DISGUSTING.

SALT! LIKE IN BRAMBLECLAW'S VISION. IT MUST BE A SIGN FROM STARCLAN.

COULD IT BE A SIGN THAT WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH?!

WE'D BETTER HOPE THEY SEND US MORE.

THERE'S NO SUN.

HOW DO WE FOLLOW WHAT WE CAN'T SEE?

WE KNOW WHICH WAY WE WERE HEADING.

WE KEEP GOING. THE CLOUDS WILL PART SOON.

AT LEAST THERE ARE NO TWOLEGS AROUND!

THEY SHOW UP FAST, THOUGH.

=SNIFF

SNIFF=

FEATHERTAIL!

BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
GET BACK!
DON'T YOU TOUCH HER!
UP HERE!
HURRY, CLIMB THE POLE! IT'S SAFE ON TOP OF THIS!
SNAP!
STOP GIVING ORDERS!
FEATHERTAIL! GO!
Bad dog!!!

Leave the poor cats alone!!

DRAG

HOP

WE'RE SAFE. FOR NOW.

THANK YOU! YOU SAVED US!

THINK NOTHING OF IT. JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY.

STRANGE TIME FOR STRANGE FOLK. MUST NOT BE FROM THESE PARTS IF YOU DON'T KNOW OLD WINSTON BREAKS OFF HIS UPWALKER'S LEASH ABOUT THIS TIME EVERY MORNING.

NO, WE'RE FROM A FOREST FAR FROM HERE.

WE'RE TRYING TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THE SUN FALLS INTO ENDLESS WATER.

OH, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE BIG WATER!

I KNOW WHERE THAT IS.

YOU DO?!

NEVER BEEN THERE MYSELF BUT I'VE HEARD TALK. SUPPOSE I COULD SHOW YOU.

ONCE WINSTON'S ON HIS WAY, OF COURSE.

WE WOULD BE IN YOUR DEBT IF YOU COULD SHOW US.

SURE, SURE. I'M HAPPY TO HELP TRAVELERS ON THEIR WAY.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

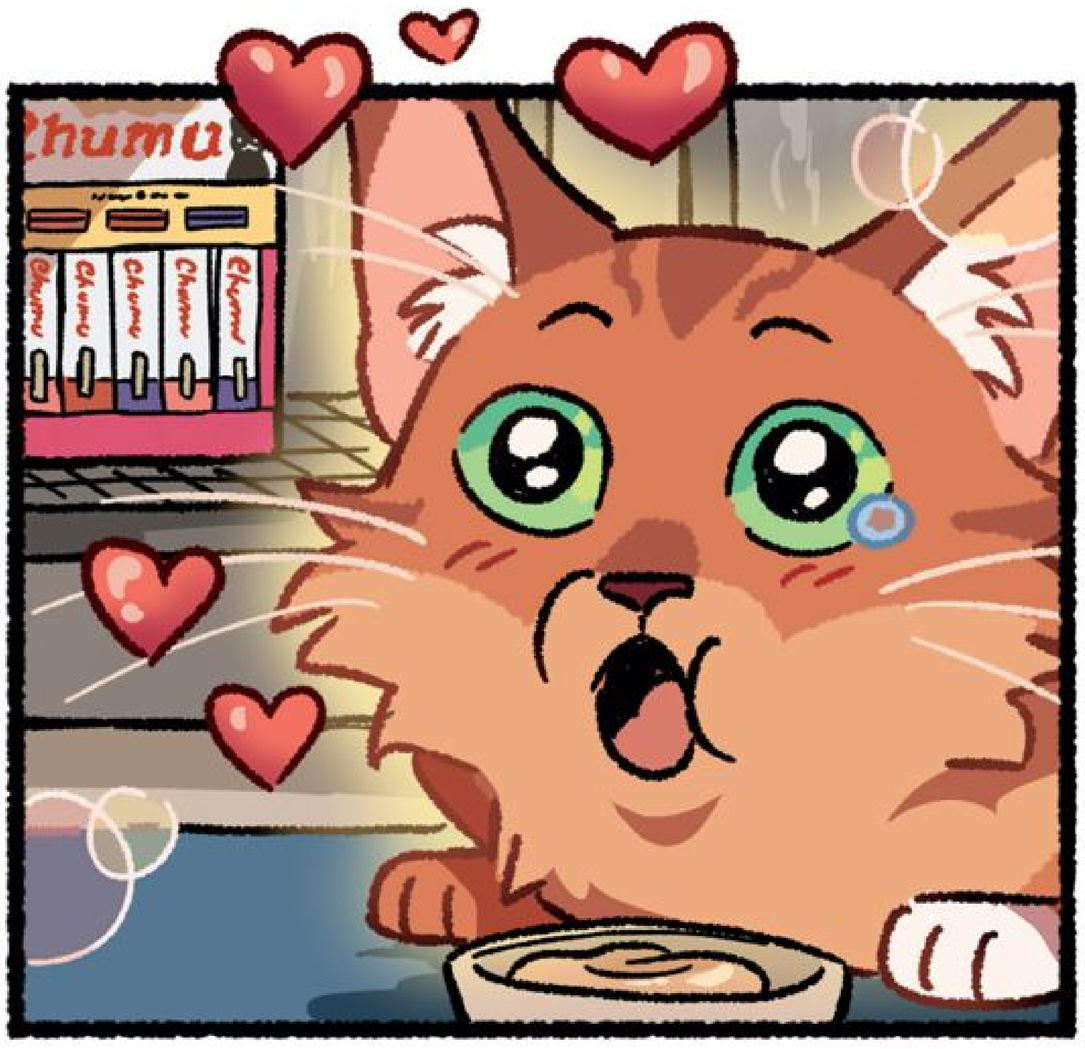
NAME? DON'T KNOW IF I GOT ONE.

. . .

I REMEMBER! PURDY! THEY CALLED ME PURDY.

HOW ABOUT THAT. I HAD A NAME THE WHOLE TIME!

WE'RE FOLLOWING THIS MOUSE-BRAINED OLD KITTYPET NOW?


Chumu

KSHH!

SLAP
SLAP
SLAP

LOOK! THE CLOUDS ARE BREAKING! FINALLY!

WAIT...

THE SUN'S SETTING BEHIND US?

ARE WE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

IT'S A SHORTCUT.

THIS KITTYPET GOT US LOST!

DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!

PURDY'S RIGHT. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH.

I KNOW BECAUSE WHEN WE STOPPED TO CHEW THE GRASS I TASTED SALT.

CROWPAW HASN'T HAD A SALT SIGN.

I THOUGHT HE MIGHT FEEL LEFT OUT.

WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE STARCLAN HASN'T TALKED TO THE APPRENTICE YET?

YET.

WE SHOULD AT LEAST FIND SOMEWHERE TO REST AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO.

I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE A FOREST NOT FAR FROM HERE.

I SAY WE HEAD THERE.

PERFECT. THERE WON'T BE TWOLEGS OR THEIR MONSTERS.

I WOULDN'T GO THAT WAY IF I WERE YOU.

WELL, YOU'RE NOT! GO GET LOST SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RUDE. HE WAS *TRYING* TO HELP.

ALL YOU DO IS COMPLAIN!

AND WHY SHOULDN'T I COMPLAIN?!

I SHOULD BE HOME!

BUT INSTEAD I'M LOST, HUNGRY, TIRED...

AND IT SMELLS REALLY BAD HERE!

TRAINING FOR MY WARRIOR CEREMONY!

IF YOU'RE BOUND TO GO THAT WAY, I'D BETTER COME ALONG.

STOMP STOMP

MIGHT BE TROUBLE.

THAT SMELL IS GETTING WORSE, THOUGH. IS IT COMING FROM THAT FENCED AREA AHEAD?

HE WAS TRYING TO LEAD US *AWAY* FROM THE SUNSET! MOUSE-BRAIN!

YUP. UP AHEAD'S WHERE THE UPWALKERS TAKE THINGS THEY BROKE. ALL MANNER OF TROUBLE FOR A CAT THERE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

I TRIED. DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ANY CAT WANTED TO LISTEN.

WE NEED TO TURN AROUND.

TOO LATE. THEY'LL HAVE CAUGHT OUR SCENT BY NOW.

WHO'S CAUGHT OUR SCENT?

THE RATS, OF COURSE.

SO WHAT? A FEW RATS ARE NO MATCH FOR SIX WARRIORS.

CROWPAW, RUN!

HISSS!!!

MROWRRR!!!

CRNCH

CHOMP!

AH!

SWIPE

CRACK

SNAP!

THE FOREST! HEAD FOR THE FOREST!

YUP. TROUBLE.

HOW BADLY IS EVERY CAT HURT?

I'M FINE, JUST A NICK ON THE TAIL. SOME SCRATCHES.

SAME HERE.

I BROKE A CLAW.

GOOD HERE, THOUGH I COULD TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO REST.

YOU'RE NOT GOOD. THAT'S A BAD BITE.

I JUST NEED TO REST TONIGHT. I'LL BE FINE TO TRAVEL IN THE MORNING.

AT LEAST WE'RE BACK IN A REAL FOREST.

WE CAN FIND ENOUGH PREY FOR TONIGHT. FILL OUR BELLIES AND HEAL.

TAWNYPELT WON'T MAKE IT FAR ON THAT LEG. SHE NEEDS A MEDICINE CAT.

WE DIDN'T THINK TO BRING ONE!

MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

YOU KITS BETTER EAT UP. REBUILD YOUR STRENGTH.

YOU CAUGHT ALL OF THIS? FOR US?

LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED IT.

THANK YOU, PURDY.

DON'T THANK HIM! THESE MICE ARE TERRIBLE.

THEY TASTE LIKE SALT!

CROWPAW! YOUR SALT SIGN! WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH!

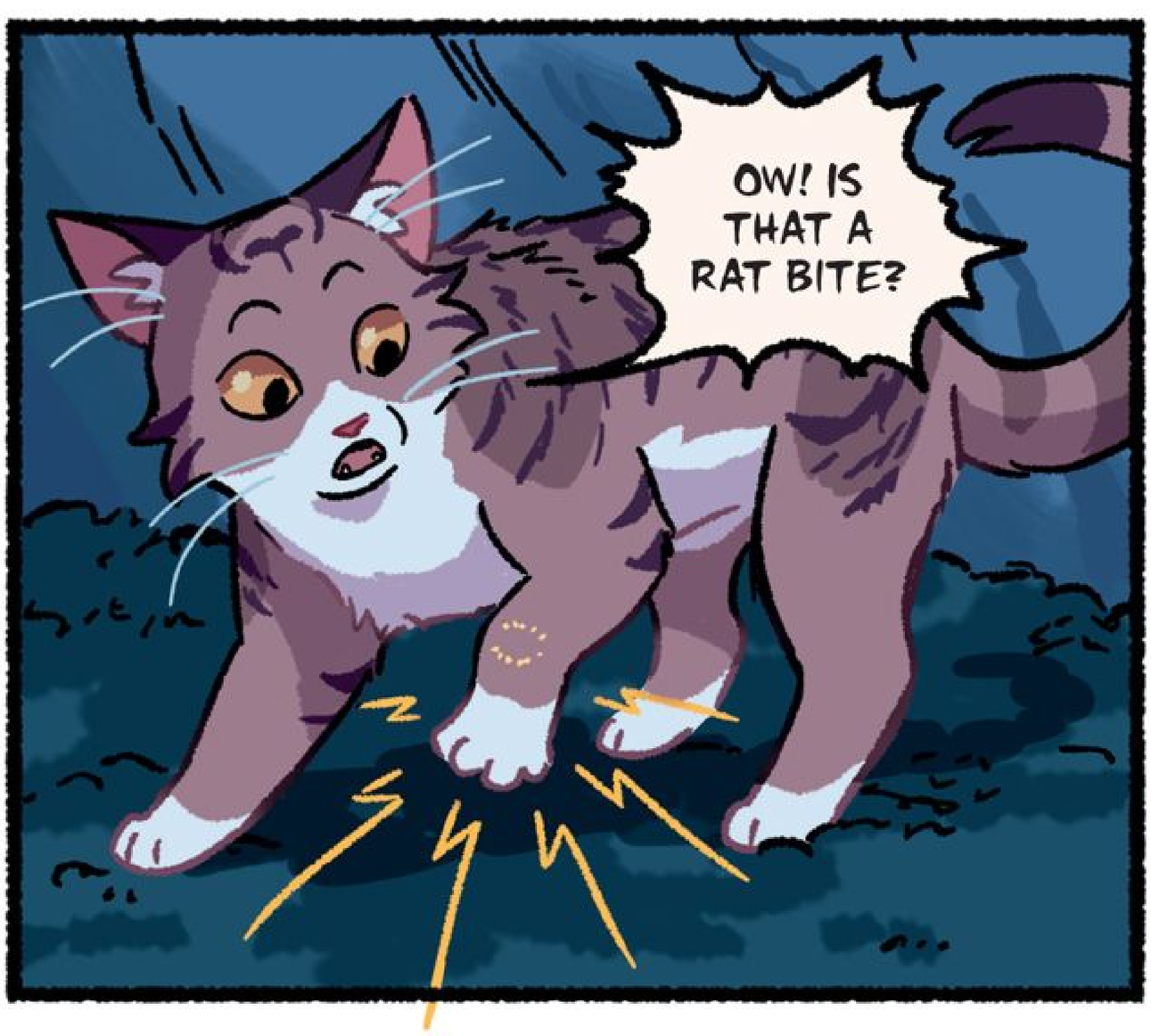
WE ARE?

WE...ARE?

LEAFPAW, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I'VE NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IN THE BOND WE SHARE. BUT IF YOU CAN FEEL WHAT I'M FEELING, PLEASE HELP US.

SQUIRRELPAW? IS THAT YOU?


OW! IS THAT A RAT BITE?

SQUIRRELPAW'S HURT!

A RAT BITE.

WHAT DO WE GIVE FOR A RAT BITE?

BURDOCK ROOT!

THAT'S IT!

IT TASTES AWFUL.

CRUNCH

REMEMBER THE TASTE, SQUIRRELPAW.

CRUNCH CRUNCH

YOU KNOW THIS TASTE.

REMEMBER, SQUIRRELPAW.

UGH, WHAT'S THAT TASTE?

I CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT...

THERE YOU ARE. COME TO LOOK FOR WATER WITH ME?

STORMFUR AND FEATHERTAIL ARE HUNTING WITH PURDY. CROWPAW'S AGREED TO LOOK AFTER TAWNYPELT.

I DIDN'T AGREE. IT WAS MY IDEA!

YEAH, SURE. LET'S GO.

SNIFF
SNIFF
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH WATER IN THIS FOREST. I CAN'T FIND ANY, AT LEAST.
I COULD SURE USE SOME NOW. THERE'S AN AWFUL TASTE IN MY MOUTH. IT'S SO FAMILIAR...
IT'S NOT SALT, IS IT?
NO, IT'S NOT SALT, FUNNY CAT. IT'S--?
BURDOCK!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO FIND BURDOCK ROOT!

OH. SURE. BURDOCK ROOT.

U

DIG DIG DIG

WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?

TO SAVE TAWNYPELT! RAT BITES ARE TREATED WITH BURDOCK ROOT!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

LEAFPAW TOLD ME!

WHAT'S SHE--?

NO IDEA.

WILL IT HURT?

JUST A LITTLE STING. THEN IT SHOULD HELP. I HOPE.

PTOO!

YOU SAID LEAFPAW TOLD YOU HOW TO DO IT?

WELL, SORT OF. WE USED OUR SPECIAL BOND TO TALK TO EACH OTHER.

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS REAL, BUT I WENT TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT THINKING ABOUT THE BITES, AND I WOKE UP WITH THE TASTE OF BURDOCK IN MY MOUTH.

YOU ALL HAD DREAMS FROM DEAD CATS TELLING YOU TO GO ON A QUEST AND YOU THINK TALKING TO MY SISTER IS WEIRD?

SHE'S RIGHT.

IT FEELS BETTER ALREADY.

DON'T GET UP. YOU'RE STILL IN BAD SHAPE.

YOU BOSSING ME AROUND, WINDCLAN?

FINE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I'M STILL VERY TIRED.

ABOUT TIME I SHOULD BE HEADING BACK.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE GOING BACK THAT WAY?

SURE, SURE. THE RATS STAY HIDDEN IN THE LIGHT.

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TRAVELING WITH YOU WARRIORS, BUT FOREST LIVING ISN'T FOR THESE OLD BONES.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, PURDY.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'D BE NOW WITHOUT YOU.

THE SAME PLACE WE WERE TWO DAYS EARLIER?

HUSH.

JUST KEEP HEADING TOWARD THE SUNSET AND YOU'LL GET WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.

YEAH, WE KNEW THAT PART!

WHAT AN ODD CAT.

DO YOU THINK WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN?

SURE, NEXT TIME WE NEED SOME CAT TO GET US LOST.

HE DID GET US HERE, THOUGH.

PURDY SAYS THE SUN-DROWN-PLACE IS ON THE OTHER END OF THIS FOREST.

I SAY WE GO. I FEEL WELL ENOUGH TO WALK.

REST ANOTHER NIGHT. BUILD YOUR STRENGTH.

YES. ONE MORE NIGHT SOUNDS GOOD.

SNIFF SNIFF

AM I GETTING MESSAGES FROM STARCLAN NOW TOO?

NO, I SMELL IT.

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

SALT!!

DO YOU SEE THAT?

IS IT--?

NOW WE WAIT UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

MAYBE WE CAN--

OOP!

BRAMBLECLAW!

HELP! HELP!!

COUGH

COUGH

IS HE OKAY?

I'M OKAY, BUT...

COUGH

I THINK THAT WE SHOULD GO IN.

I HATE THAT YOU SAID THAT.

I HATE THAT HE'S RIGHT.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE IN CHARGE.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE SCENT.

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

IT'S SO DARK IN HERE, I CAN BARELY SEE.

YOUR EYES WILL ADJUST.

WHO SAID THAT?

I DID.

BADGER!! RUN!!

PLEASE. MIDNIGHT HAS COME TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

WHAT?

I AM CALLED MIDNIGHT.

FRIEND TO BEASTS FAR AND WIDE, OF LAND AND AIR.

SENT BY STARCLAN WITH A MESSAGE.

WE CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR A MESSAGE FROM STARCLAN?

HUSH! WE CAME TO LISTEN TO WHAT MIDNIGHT TELLS US. THIS IS MIDNIGHT! LISTEN!

WHY HAVE YOU COME ALL THIS WAY?

THROUGH PERILS AND DANGERS?

NOT READY FOR THE TASK. SIX CATS AND FOUR CLANS YOU WERE.

FIGHTING. DISTRUSTING. FEARING.

YOUR PATH HAS MADE YOU *ONE*.

CLANS MUST BECOME ONE TO SURVIVE THE JOURNEY.

WE'RE HERE! WE SURVIVED OUR JOURNEY.

YOUR JOURNEY HAS NOT ENDED.

IT HAS ONLY BEGUN.

YOU MUST LEAVE THE FOREST. FIND A NEW HOME. ALL CLANS, ALL CATS, MUST.

BUT...OUR CLANS HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THE FOREST!

NO LONGER. TWOLEGS AND THEIR MONSTERS COME.

THE MONSTERS RAVENPAW WARNED US ABOUT!

YES. MONSTERS, YES.

TREES WILL THEY UPROOT. ROCKS BREAK. THE EARTH ITSELF, TEAR APART.

DESTROY YOU AS WELL, SHOULD YOU STAY.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?

I HAVE SEEN. HAVE BEEN SHOWN.

IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.

TO MY SET. TO OTHERS.

STARCLAN HAS SEEN IT.

BUT CANNOT STOP IT.

BUT WHERE WILL WE GO?

WILL YOU SHOW US THE WAY?

CANNOT TELL YOU, CANNOT SHOW YOU. BUT YOU WILL FIND, IF YOU SEEK.

A NEW HOME, FAR FROM TWOLEGS.

AMONG HILLS OF OAK WOODS, RUNNING STREAMS, MUCH PREY.

BUT YOU WILL NOT BE WITHOUT A GUIDE. WHEN YOU RETURN, STAND ON GREAT ROCK, WHEN SILVERPELT SHINES OVERHEAD.

A DYING WARRIOR WILL SHOW THE WAY.

DYING...WARRIOR?

ONE OF US?

CANNOT SAY. CANNOT TELL YOU MORE. SHARED ALL MIDNIGHT CAN SHARE.

IT IS TIME TO REST, TO GAIN STRENGTH FOR YOUR RETURN.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE GO HOME.

WE SAVE OUR CLANS.

IF WE CAN.

RUB

WE CAN.

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

BRAMBLECLAW! SQUIRRELPAW!

SQUIRRELPAW?

RUSTLE

JUST US, I'M AFRAID.

OH. HELLO, GRAYSTRIPE. ASHFUR.

STILL NO SIGN OF THEM.

BUT NO SIGN THAT ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM EITHER.

I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SQUIRRELPAW.

SNIFF SNIFF

I WORRY FOR BRAMBLECLAW AS WELL, BUT...

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER.

BUT YOU NEED REST AND FOOD. YOU'LL COLLAPSE IF YOU KEEP ON THIS WAY.

IF SHE'S WITH BRAMBLECLAW, AT LEAST THEY CAN LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

A FAIR POINT. WE'LL RETURN TO CAMP TO EAT AND REST.

FIRESTAR, DO YOU SMELL THAT?

WINDCLAN CATS? THEY'RE CLOSE.

WE'RE NEAR THEIR BORDER, BUT...

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

THEY'RE CLOSER THAN THAT. THIS WAY.

THERE!

THAT'S MUDCLAW.

AND ONEWHISKER.

THAT ISN'T WINDCLAN PREY IN THEIR TEETH.

STOP WHERE YOU ARE!

STAY BACK!

HISSS!!

SWIPE

DON'T EVEN TRY, MOUSE-BRAIN!

WINDCLAN HAS LEAVE TO DRINK FROM RIVERCLAN WATERS.

HOW IS IT WE FIND YOU HUNTING ON THUNDERCLAN LAND?

WE WEREN'T HUNTING ON YOUR TERRITORY.

WE WERE DRINKING IN RIVERCLAN, BUT WE HUNTED THIS PREY ON WINDCLAN TERRITORY!

WE'RE ONLY TAKING A SHORTER PATH HOME.

YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT?

YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF WINDCLAN AS TO ASSUME WE'RE THIEVES?

WE DO WHEN WE FIND YOU THIEVING!

BE STILL, ASHFUR.

I WILL TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD. THIS TIME.

DON'T LET THERE BE ANOTHER.

THANK YOU, FIRESTAR. WE WILL NOT FORGET THIS.

WE'RE JUST LETTING THEM GO? WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE WILL THAT SEND?

WE DON'T NEED TO SHED BLOOD TODAY, ASHFUR.

COME BACK TO CAMP.

YES, FIRESTAR.

STAY CLOSE, LEAFPAW. WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE THUNDERPATH.

YES, CINDERPELT.

WITH BRAMBLECLAW AND SQUIRRELPAW MISSING, WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

I'M SURE THEY'RE SAFE, THOUGH. YOUR SISTER IS STRONG.

I... THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

STARCLAN WILL WATCH OVER THEM.

HERE WE ARE!

FOUND YOU.

CRNCH CRUNCH

NOW. WHAT ARE THE USES FOR CHERVIL?

THE JUICE OF THE LEAVES CAN BE USED TO TREAT INFECTIONS, AND...

YOU CAN CHEW THE ROOT FOR A BELLY ACHE!

THAT'S CORRECT!

IT'S EASIER TO FIND CHERVIL NEAR SNAKEROCKS, BUT WITH THAT BADGER STILL AROUND...

?

CINDERPELT? WHAT IS THAT? SOME PIECE OF TWOLEG TRASH?

COULD BE. THEY PASS THROUGH HERE SOMETIMES.

IT'S BURNING THAT PILE OF BRACKEN AND--

FIRE!

OH!
OH NO!

WHAT DO WE DO?

CINDERPELT?

I--

SHOULD WE PUT IT OUT? CAN WE?

CINDERPELT?

THANK STARCLAN, IT'S DYING.

DID YOU SEE IT?

SEE--?

I SAW...IN THE FIRE, I SAW...A TIGER...

TIGER AND FLAME...

WE MUST GET BACK TO CAMP.

WE HAVE TO SEE FIRESTAR RIGHT AWAY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I'VE HAD A VISION FROM STARCLAN.

SANDSTORM! IS FIRESTAR IN THE CAMP?

YES, HE'S RESTING.

HE HASN'T STOPPED LOOKING FOR SQUIRRELPAW AND BRAMBLECLAW FOR DAYS.

WE HAVE TO SPEAK WITH HIM RIGHT AWAY.

OF COURSE. COME WITH ME.

FIRESTAR? CINDERPELT SAYS SHE NEEDS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

COME IN. COME IN.

HELLO, LEAFPAW. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU BOTH?

LEAFPAW AND I WERE GATHERING HERBS JUST NOW. THERE WAS A SMALL FIRE.

A FIRE?!

IT BURNED QUICKLY. NOTHING WAS HARMED, BUT--

IN THE FIRE, I SAW A TIGER...TIGER AND FLAME TOGETHER...

SUCH POWER COULD DESTROY THE FOREST...

YOU'VE HAD A VISION FROM STARCLAN?

OF TIGER AND FLAME...

YES. JUST LIKE THE OLD PROPHECY.

THE FLAME THAT SAVED THE FOREST IN THAT VISION WAS YOU, FIRESTAR.

BUT THE TIGER...COULD THAT MEAN...?

TIGERSTAR?

BUT TIGERSTAR IS DEAD. IF THE FLAME IS FIRESTAR, WHO DOES THE TIGER REPRESENT?

IT COULD BE...TIGERSTAR'S KIT?

BRAMBLECLAW? HE'S BEEN FIERCELY LOYAL TO THUNDERCLAN. I DON'T BELIEVE HE'D BETRAY US.

NO CAT SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BETRAYAL. WE DON'T KNOW THAT THE VISION IS ONE OF DOOM. AND I SUSPECT THE FLAME IS NOT YOU, BUT--

SQUIRRELPAW!

IT COULDN'T BE. SHE'S JUST AN APPRENTICE.

SHE DOES HAVE YOUR FIERY-RED COAT.

WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY MEAN? WHAT IS STARCLAN TELLING US?

I DON'T KNOW. STARCLAN'S VISIONS ARE RARELY CLEAR AT FIRST.

COULD THIS BE WHY THEY'VE GONE MISSING?

I WISH I KNEW. BUT MORE WILL BECOME CLEAR WITH TIME.

UNTIL WE KNOW MORE, LET'S KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES.

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TOO MANY QUESTIONS AND NO ANSWERS.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS TO ME.

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY. LET'S FIND YOU SOME FRESH-KILL.

YES, THANK YOU.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING? THAT MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENING.

RUB

I'M OKAY. IT WAS A SHOCK WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT--

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.

MORE?

I KNOW SQUIRRELPAW AND BRAMBLECLAW LEFT THE FOREST.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE OR WHY THEY LEFT. BUT I KNOW THEY'RE TOGETHER AND THEY'RE SAFE.

AT LEAST, I THINK THEY'RE SAFE.

AND I DON'T THINK THEY'RE ALONE.

THEY'RE WITH OTHER CATS?

I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T TELL FOR SURE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

I CAN SENSE HER...

SQUIRRELPAW AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SENSE HOW ONE ANOTHER IS FEELING.

AND I CAN...*FEEL*...HER WHEN I CONCENTRATE.

AND WHAT IS SHE FEELING NOW?

EXCITED, MOSTLY. A LITTLE SCARED, BUT SHE'S BRAVE.

SQUIRRELPAW CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. AND BRAMBLECLAW TOO.

I HAVE FAITH STARCLAN WILL BRING THEM BACK TO US SOON.

YOU KNOW, CINDERPELT'S VISION MIGHT NOT MEAN THAT THE TIGER AND FLAME ARE GOING TO *DESTROY* SOMETHING.

MAYBE THEY'RE GOING TO WORK *TOGETHER*. TO SAVE THE FOREST.

NOW THAT IS A COMFORTING THOUGHT.

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE AN EXCELLENT MEDICINE CAT.

YOU THINK SO?

ONE OF THUNDERCLAN'S FINEST. I'M SURE OF IT.

FIRESTAR!

WHAT NOW?

FIRESTAR, COME QUICKLY!

THE TWOLEGS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR MONSTERS TO THE EDGE OF THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY!

THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM, BREATHING DARK SMOKE.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING. COME WITH US.
RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
HURRY!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL?
IT'S THE TWOLEGS. THEY'RE JUST THROUGH HERE.

CHRRNK!

ROAD CLOSED

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

RRRRRR

CHRRNK!

ГРРР
ЧТО ЭТО
ЗА ЗВУК?

YOU'RE EXAGGERATING.

IT WAS LIKE NOTHING ELSE THE TWOLEGS HAVE DONE BEFORE.

THEIR MONSTER PULLED THE TREES RIGHT FROM THE GROUND.

LEAVE THEM ALONE UNTIL THEY FORGET ABOUT US AGAIN.

I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SIMPLE THIS TIME.

RIVERCLAN HASN'T BEEN AFFECTED. WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOREST AFFECTS US ALL!

BLACKSTAR, TELL THEM!

SHADOWCLAN HAS BEEN AFFECTED WORSE THAN THUNDERCLAN.

SHADOWCLAN WILL KEEP ITS OWN COUNSEL ON WHAT AFFECTS SHADOWCLAN.

NOD

YOU'VE WARNED US, FIRESTAR. WE THANK YOU. BUT WE HAVE OTHER PRESSING BUSINESS.

RIVERCLAN IS WITHDRAWING PERMISSION FOR WINDCLAN TO DRINK FROM OUR WATERS.

THE RAINS HAVE COME, THE STREAMS FLOW AGAIN, BUT WE MUST TRAVEL SO FAR TO REACH THEM STILL. HAVE MERCY, LEOPARDSTAR.

MERCY, TALLSTAR? YOU ABUSE OUR GENEROSITY AND INSULT US WITH IT?

MAY I SPEAK, LEOPARDSTAR?

YES, HAWKFROST.

WINDCLAN HAS BEEN HUNTING ON RIVERCLAN TERRITORY. I'VE SEEN IT.

HOW DARE YOU?! NO WINDCLAN CAT HAS STOLEN PREY!

WINDCLAN HAS BEEN CAUGHT HUNTING ON THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY AS WELL, TALLSTAR.

I WANT TO BELIEVE YOUR WARRIORS, BUT WITH RIVERCLAN'S TESTIMONY, I MUST SPEAK THE TRUTH.

IT CAN'T BE. I WOULD KNOW.

WE WILL NOT BREAK THE PEACE. BUT WINDCLAN NO LONGER HAS PERMISSION TO CROSS OUR BORDER.

OUR WARRIORS WILL DRIVE OUT *ANY* TRESPASSERS.

BEFORE WE PART, THERE IS MORE.

A QUARTER MOON AGO, ONE OF OUR WARRIORS, BRAMBLECLAW, AND AN APPRENTICE, SQUIRRELPAW, DISAPPEARED.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THEY DIDN'T GO ALONE.

HAVE ANY OF YOUR WARRIORS GONE MISSING?

TWO. STORMFUR AND FEATHERTAIL.

MY KITS?

WE ASSUMED THEY LEFT TO JOIN YOU IN THUNDERCLAN. THIS IS TROUBLING NEWS.

WE THOUGHT THE SAME OF TAWNYPELT, BRAMBLECLAW'S SISTER.

SHE IS NOT AMONG YOU?

WINDCLAN HAS LOST AN APPRENTICE, CROWPAW. WE THOUGHT A FOX OR A BADGER GOT TO HIM, BUT HE COULD BE WITH THIS GROUP!

COULD THE DOGS BE BACK?!

WE'VE SEEN NO SIGN THAT THEY WERE HURT. WE'RE CONVINCED THAT THEY LEFT OF THEIR OWN WILL.

A CAT FROM EVERY CLAN, LEAVING TOGETHER? THEY'RE DISLOYAL! GOOD RIDDANCE!

I'VE NEVER KNOWN A CAT MORE LOYAL THAN CROWPAW.

WHATEVER HIS REASONS, I DON'T BELIEVE HE WOULD ACT AGAINST WINDCLAN.

THEY ARE ALL LOYAL CATS.

UNTIL WE KNOW MORE, WE SHOULDN'T ASSUME THE WORST.

TRUST STARCLAN TO SEE THEM HOME.

NOD

TRUST STARCLAN.

NOD

HEY, YOU'RE LEAFPAW, AREN'T YOU? THUNDERCLAN'S MEDICINE CAT APPRENTICE?

I'M MOTHWING, RIVERCLAN'S MEDICINE CAT APPRENTICE!

OH! HI! NICE TO MEET YOU!

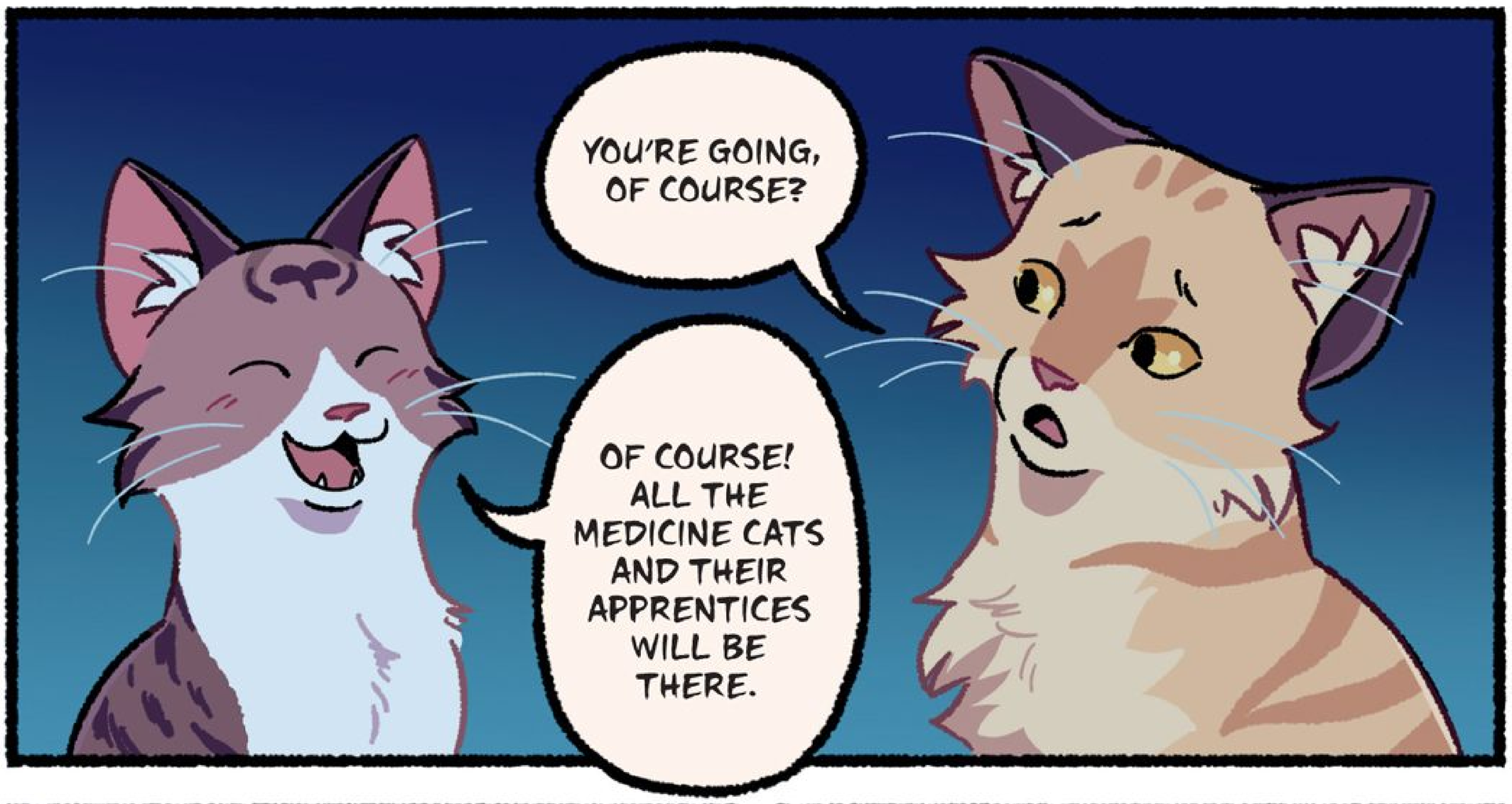
AREN'T YOU A WARRIOR?

I TRAINED AS A WARRIOR, BUT I FELT CALLED BY STARCLAN.

MUDFUR, OUR MEDICINE CAT, AGREED TO TEACH ME.

FOR NOW.

MUDFUR'S STILL WAITING FOR A SIGN FROM STARCLAN BEFORE HE'LL TAKE ME TO THE HALF-MOON MEETING.


YOU'RE GOING, OF COURSE?
OF COURSE! ALL THE MEDICINE CATS AND THEIR APPRENTICES WILL BE THERE.

THAT'S GREAT! I'LL HAVE ONE FRIEND THERE, AT LEAST!

MOTHWING, COME ON. WE'RE GOING.
OH, RIGHT. BE RIGHT THERE.

THAT'S HAWKFROST? YOUR BROTHER? HE'S... INTIMIDATING.

DON'T MIND HIM. HE CAN BE UPTIGHT SOMETIMES, BUT HE MEANS WELL.

SEE YOU AT THE MEDICINE CAT MEETING?

CAN'T WAIT!

SNIFF
SNIFF

WELL, LOOK THERE!

DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU ALL AGAIN, IF I'M HONEST.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, PURDY. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE STILL AROUND.

THE MOUSING'S GOOD HERE. SHAME ABOUT THE FOXES, THOUGH.

SNIFF SNIFF

AND IS THAT... *SNIFF*...BADGER?

STAY BEHIND ME! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

HOW?

HOP

WAIT, THAT'S MIDNIGHT! SHE'S WITH US!

THAT'S THE MIDNIGHT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

SHE'S BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE THE SUN-DROWN-PLACE. MAKING SURE WE'RE SAFE.

SAFE BACK IN TWOLEG TERRITORY?

YOU SURE DO HAVE SOME STRANGE FRIENDS.

THAT'S THE TRUTH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PURDY. HE'S A FRIEND. HE HELPED US GET HERE.

HE CANNOT HELP YOU RETURN.

A DANGEROUS ROAD LIES AHEAD OF YOU. BUT YOUR PATH HOME TAKES YOU TO THE MOUNTAIN.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO GUIDE US. HOW WILL WE KNOW THE WAY?

LOOK TO THE RISE OF THE SUN.

LIKE THE FACE OF THE MOON, LOOK ALWAYS TO THE SUNRISE.

CAN'T YOU TELL US MORE?

THERE IS NO MORE I CAN SAY. I LEAVE YOU NOW UNDER THE EYES OF NOBLE ANCESTOR CATS.

WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR GREAT ROCK...A DYING WARRIOR WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO A NEW HOME.

YOU MEAN STARCLAN, OF COURSE.

MIDNIGHT?

THE MOUNTAIN, HMM? 'FRAID I CAN'T GO WITH YOU THAT WAY. I'VE HEARD THINGS ABOUT THAT PLACE.

KEEP YOUR WHISKERS UP FOR DANGER.

WE ALWAYS DO.

HOW'S YOUR LEG?

IT'S FINE. I'M FINE.

SIGH

WE SHOULD REST SOON. FIND SOME PREY.

PREY SOUNDS GREAT. CROWPAW, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HUNT WITH ME?

YES! YES, I'D LOVE TO!

THEY SEEM... CLOSE.

CROWPAW IS SMITTEN!

COME WITH ME. WE CAN HUNT TOGETHER.

I BET WE CATCH MORE THAN THEY DO!

MUNCH

MUNCH

ALMOST AT THE TOP...

AT LEAST IT'S DOWNHILL FOR A BIT.

WE NEED TO FIND SHELTER!

THERE'S AN OVERHANG NEXT TO THE STREAM UP AHEAD.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE UNDER HERE?

IT'S DRY, AT LEAST.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE. THE SUN'S GOING DOWN. WE SHOULD SETTLE IN HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

THE WEATHER HERE SURE IS...

DIFFERENT.

IS--? IS THE WATER GETTING HIGHER?

IT IS, AND FAST.

WE HAVE TO GO.

IT'S TOO LATE!

I FAILED YOU, STARCLAN...

IS IT HIM?

HE IS...SILVER...

COULD IT BE?

WHA--?

WHO ARE YOU?! STAY BACK!

YOU'RE AWAKE.

DID YOU... SAVE US?

IT WOULDN'T HELP TO WATCH YOU DROWN.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE WERE CAUGHT IN A FLOOD. THESE CATS SAVED US.

I'M BROOK.

WE'RE THE TRIBE OF RUSHING WATER. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE IF YOU COME AS FRIENDS.

I'M STORMFUR. WE COME FROM A FOREST FAR FROM HERE.

WE TRAVEL IN PEACE, BUT WE NEED FOOD AND SHELTER.

YES! YOU'RE HURT. STONETELLER CAN HEAL YOU.

STONETELLER?

IS THAT YOUR MEDICINE CAT?

MEDICINE...CAT? STONETELLER IS OUR HEALER. OUR GUIDE.

THEIR LEADER IS ALSO A HEALER?

THAT MUST BE A POWERFUL CAT.

CAN WE TRUST THEM?

IF THEY MEAN US HARM... WHY SAVE US?

WE'LL GO WITH YOU. WITH OUR THANKS.

YES! COME.

THEY SURE DO LIKE YOU.

I'M NOT SURE WHY.

A HIDDEN CAVE?

YOU LIVE HERE?

WHERE DO YOU SHELTER? CAVES DON'T WASH AWAY IN THE FLOOD. WON'T BURN IN A FIRE.

COME QUICKLY. STONETELLER IS WAITING.

HOW MANY CAVES ARE THERE ON THIS QUEST?

WELCOME TO OUR HOME.

OH!

STONETELLER, WE FOUND... TRAVELERS.

YES! THEY'VE COME AT LAST.

AT LAST?

I AM THE TELLER OF POINTED STONES.

YOU MAY CALL ME *STONETELLER.*

THIS IS THE ONE! IT HAS TO BE, RIGHT? HIS COAT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SILVER.

QUIET, MIST!

YOU'RE HUNGRY? EAT YOUR FILL! REST! YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.

THANK YOU, STONETELLER. THANK YOU ALL.

THEY DON'T SHARE?

HUSH.

IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT THEY WEREN'T TAUGHT PROPERLY.

LOOK.

RRIP!

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

OH...THEY SHARE.

SWAP

THIS BLOOD IS FRESH.

I THINK I OPENED THE WOUND IN THE FALL.

WE WERE GIVING HER BURDOCK ROOT. BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY FOR A WHILE.

I'LL BRING YOU SOME HERBS FOR THE PAIN. THEY'LL HELP YOU SLEEP SO YOU CAN HEAL.

THEY'RE ALL STARING AT YOU AGAIN.

WE MUST SEEM SO STRANGE TO THEM.

I'M SURE *WE* DO, BUT THEY'RE NOT STARING AT US.

SHE'S RIGHT. THEY CAN'T TAKE THEIR EYES OFF YOU.

I DON'T TRUST THEM.

WHY NOT? THEY SEEM... FRIENDLY?

EXACTLY! WHY?

DO YOU NEED A REASON TO BE FRIENDLY?

THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING.

WE SHOULD STAY AT LEAST UNTIL TAWNYPELT CAN HEAL.

I AGREE, BUT WE SHOULDN'T LINGER.

WE'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THE FOREST TOO LONG ALREADY.

THEY'RE LATE.

WE NEED ALL THE TIME WE CAN GET AT THE MOONSTONE TO FIND OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE TWOLEGS.

PREY ISN'T SO SCARCE IN RIVERCLAN. MAYBE SHARING TONGUES WITH STARCLAN ISN'T AS IMPORTANT TO THEM.

GRRMBLL

I SMELL RABBIT NOT FAR FROM HERE. WHILE WE WAIT, MAYBE I--

NO!

RABBITS ARE NO LONGER SAFE TO EAT. TWOLEGS HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO THEM.

YES. MANY SHADOWCLAN WARRIORS HAVE TAKEN SICK. ONLY THE STRONGEST HAVE SURVIVED.

WE'VE LOST MANY WARRIORS, BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY PREY WE CAN FIND SOME DAYS.

THAT'S TERRIBLE, LITTLECLOUD. WE'LL BE SURE TO TELL FIRESTAR.

HMM. THEY'RE HERE.

THEY SURE LOOK WELL-FED.

MOTHWING! YOU MADE IT!

STARCLAN FINALLY SENT MUDFUR A SIGN.

A SINGLE MOTH'S WING OUTSIDE OF HIS DEN! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAN JOIN US AT MOTHERMOUTH.

THERE'LL BE TIME FOR TALKING LATER. COME NOW.

YES, MUDFUR.

MUDFUR'S BEEN TEACHING ME THE HERBS TO TREAT GREEN-COUGH AND WHITECOUGH.

AND HOW TO GET THORNS OUT OF PADS. HE SAID HE'S NEVER SEEN ANY CAT DO IT SO NEATLY!

THAT'S GREAT!

MOTHERMOUTH. FINALLY. WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH MOONLIGHT LEFT.

I'M NERVOUS. WHAT'LL THEY SAY TO ME?

I DON'T KNOW. WE DON'T TALK ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES HERE.

THEY'RE PERSONAL MESSAGES. FOR US, FROM STARCLAN.

LET THEM SPEAK TO YOU.

LIKE A FISH SINKING INTO DEEP WATER.

SQUIRRELPAW...

SQUIRRELPAW!!

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS THAT YOU CAN'T REACH YOUR SISTER. SHE WILL RETURN.

YOU'RE...SPOTTEDLEAF! THUNDERCLAN'S MEDICINE CAT BEFORE YELLOWFANG.

NOD

I AM.

I KNEW YOUR FATHER. I'M VERY PROUD TO SEE HIS KIT BECOME SUCH A FINE MEDICINE CAT.

STARCLAN HAS GREAT THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU.

A TIME OF GREAT SUFFERING HAS COME, BUT THE CLANS ARE STRONG AND THEY WILL MEET IT.

DO NOT FEAR.

WHEREVER YOU GO.

I WILL WALK WITH YOU.

WELCOME HOME. GOOD NEWS FROM STARCLAN?

I'M AFRAID NOT.

THEY HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO ME AT ALL SINCE THE VISION. WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?

IT'S NOT YOU, CINDERPELT.

MORE BAD NEWS. RABBITS MAY NO LONGER BE SAFE TO EAT.

WHAT? NO! PREY IS ALREADY BECOMING SO SCARCE!

BARKFACE AND LITTLECLOUD SAY THEY'RE MAKING THEIR CLANS SICK. MANY HAVEN'T SURVIVED.

THAT'S VERY BAD NEWS.

LEAFPAW, REMOVE ANY RABBITS FROM THE FRESH-KILL PILE.

YES, FIRESTAR.

NOT WITH YOUR MOUTH. PUSH THEM WITH YOUR PAWS.

DAPPLETAIL! WAIT! YOU CAN'T EAT THAT RABBIT!

I MOST CERTAINLY CAN. MY BELLY'S FLAPPING LIKE A LEAF IN THE WIND.

THE RABBITS AREN'T SAFE! THEY'RE MAKING WINDCLAN AND SHADOWCLAN CATS VERY SICK.

AND WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WINDCLAN RABBITS? AT MY AGE, I THINK I KNOW WHEN FRESH-KILL IS SAFE TO EAT. THESE SMELL PERFECTLY FINE TO ME.

THEY SMELL KIND OF FUNNY TO *ME*.

FIRESTAR ORDERED US TO GET RID OF IT.

THEN FIRESTAR CAN FIND US PREY WE *CAN* EAT!

I WON'T BE TOLD WHAT TO EAT BY AN UPSTART KIT!

A REAL LEADER WOULD BE *PROVIDING* FOR US! NOT TELLING WHAT WE CAN'T EAT!

SQUIRRELPAW...

I MISS YOU...

CINDERPELT!

CINDERPELT!

DAPPLETAIL IS SICK! SHE SAYS IT'S HER STOMACH.

LEAFPAW! COME HERE, PLEASE.

YES, CINDERPELT!

SHE'LL NEED SOME CHICKWEED. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GATHERED ANY.

TAKE SORRELTAIL AND FIND SOME, WOULD YOU?

NOD

IT GROWS NEAR THE RIVERCLAN BORDER.

SHE'S QUITE OLD NOW... DOES SHE HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RECOVER?

WHY WOULDN'T SHE LISTEN?

GATHER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. I FEAR WE'LL NEED IT.

I'LL CHECK BACK WITH YOU WHEN BRIGHTHEART AND I GET BACK FROM PATROL.

HERE'S A NICE PATCH!

THAT'S GREAT! LET'S HURRY AND GET IT BACK TO CINDERPELT. WE'RE A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO RIVERCLAN TERRITORY.

THEY SHOULDN'T GIVE A MEDICINE CAT APPRENTICE ANY TROUBLE. BUT WE'LL BE QUICK.

SPLSH

ROWWRR!!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SOME CAT NEEDS HELP!

BUT THAT'S COMING FROM RIVERCLAN!

HELP ME!!

HELP!!

WE CAN'T REACH HIM! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

WAIT! SOME CAT'S COMING!

WE CAN'T JUST WATCH.

SPLASH!

SLIP!

THANK STARCLAN, SHE SAVED HIM.

NO, HE'S HURT!

MISTYFOOT! IT'S ME, LEAFPAW! THUNDERCLAN'S MEDICINE CAT APPRENTICE! CAN I HELP?

LEAFPAW! YES, COME OVER!

WE SHOULDN'T BE CROSSING CLAN BORDERS!

LEAFPAW!

CAN YOU HELP HIM?

YES. I THINK SO.

WE NEED TO KEEP HIM WARM. LICKING HIM WILL HELP.

LEAFPAW?

WHAT ARE THUNDERCLAN CATS DOING HERE?

REEDPAW FELL INTO THE RIVER! LEAFPAW WAS PASSING BY, AND I ASKED HER TO HELP!

SHOULD WE GIVE HIM SOME POPPY SEEDS TO HELP HIM SLEEP?

UM, WELL, I WOULDN'T. HE SHOULD SLEEP NATURALLY.

IMPRESSIVE.

FOR AN APPRENTICE.

YES. VERY IMPRESSIVE.

WELL, I'VE HAD A LOT OF TRAINING.

CINDERPELT'S TAUGHT YOU WELL. WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT, LEAFPAW.

AND YOU...SORRELTAIL?

YES, THAT'S ME!

CONSIDER YOURSELVES FRIENDS OF RIVERCLAN.

SO, RIVERCLAN DEPUTY! I BET THAT'S A FUN JOB.

IT HAS ITS MOMENTS.

...HAWKFROST, STOP!

!

YOU SOUND LIKE TIGERSTAR.

TIGERSTAR WAS MISGUIDED.

HE BETRAYED THE WARRIOR CODE AND DESERVED TO FAIL.

BUT YOU NEED TO BE READY. OUR OPPORTUNITY IS COMING, NO MATTER WHAT CATS SEE IT.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY, MAYBE.

STOMP

STOMP

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HAWKFROST AND MOTHWING?

CATS SAY THEIR MOTHER WAS A ROGUE, BUT I DON'T KNOW. THEY SEEM ALL RIGHT TO ME.

THEY'RE BOTH REALLY PRETTY. DID YOU NOTICE HAWKFROST LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE BRAMBLECLAW?

I SUPPOSE HE DOES.

NOT THAT I THINK BRAMBLECLAW IS PRETTY!

WE GOT THE CHICKWEED!

OH. YES. THANK YOU. PUT IT WITH THE OTHER HERBS, PLEASE.

SHOULDN'T WE GET IT TO DAPPLETAIL?

NO.

DAPPLETAIL IS DEAD.

YAY! STORMFUR!

GOOD CATCH! YOU'RE SHAPING UP TO BE A FINE PREY HUNTER!

THANKS...? MAYBE I *WOULD'VE* MADE A GOOD TRIBE HUNTER.

HUNTING THIS WAY IS SO DIFFERENT!

THIS? THIS IS HOW THE TO-BES LEARN.

COME WITH US!

YOU'RE... LEAVING THE SPARROW?

THIS IS HOW OUR TRIBE HUNTS.

DROP

EYES OPEN. WATCH CAREFULLY. BE PATIENT.

SILENT...

STILL...

LIKE THE ROCKS...

LET YOUR PREY BELIEVE IT'S THE PREDATOR. THEY WILL BE PATIENT TOO.

BE *MORE* PATIENT.

BECAUSE WHEN THEY STRIKE...

WE STRIKE!

A HAWK FEEDS MORE MOUTHS THAN A DOZEN SPARROWS. WHEN WE HUNT TOGETHER...

WE'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN SCORES OF CATS ALONE.

SHOW ME MORE.

EVERY CAT! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS TRIBE HUNTING STYLE!

I'M FINE WITH WINDCLAN STYLE, THANKS.

BESIDES, I'M NOT TRAINING WITH...WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM?

TO-BES. THEY'RE *TO-BE* PREY HUNTERS.

LIKE AN APPRENTICE. LIKE *YOU*.

COME WITH ME. WE CAN HUNT TOGETHER.

LEAD THE WAY!

DO YOU THINK CATS FROM DIFFERENT CLANS CAN BE...HAPPY TOGETHER?

I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

I CAN'T SAY THE CLANS MAKE IT EASY.

YOUR PARENTS WERE FROM DIFFERENT CLANS.

FEATHERTAIL AND I WERE NEARLY KILLED FOR IT.

YES.

BY TIGERSTAR. *MY* FATHER.

THANK STARCLAN WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CATS LIKE HIM ANYMORE.

BUT CLAN RIVALRIES WON'T GO AWAY JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE FOREST.

HOW CAN IT END ANY WAY BUT BADLY?

DON'T EAT THE NIGHT SEEDS!!

NIGHT SEEDS? YOU MEAN THE DEATHBERRIES? I'D NEVER EAT--!

THEY'RE POISON! ONE BITE ALONE WOULD *KILL* A CAT! YOU MUST *NEVER* EAT THEM.

I KNOW NOT TO EAT *DEATHBERRIES!!*

I SHOULD GO CHECK ON TAWNYPELT ANYWAY.

I'LL COME WITH YOU.

WHAT'S ITCHING STORMFUR'S EAR TODAY? HE KEEPS GIVING ME THE EYE!
SNIFF
SNIFF
HE THINKS IT'S A BAD IDEA THAT YOU AND I ARE GETTING CLOSER.
BECAUSE WE'RE FROM DIFFERENT CLANS.
...
WHY DOES HE CARE? HE'S HUNTING WITH THAT TRIBE CAT, BROOK, ISN'T HE?
WHO CARES WHAT HE THINKS? HE DOESN'T GET TO MAKE OUR CHOICES.

DO YOU THINK WE'LL STILL HUNT TOGETHER? WHEN WE'RE BACK WITH OUR CLANS?

WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE *WILL* BE CLANS WHEN WE GET BACK.

I KNOW IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, BUT...

OUR WORLD MAKES IT MATTER. BUT I DON'T CARE.

BRAVE CROWPAW OF WINDCLAN...

I'LL HUNT WITH YOU ANYTIME.

BESIDES...

I THINK I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THIS.

OKAY, MAYBE THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS WE COULD LEARN FROM THE TRIBE.

YOU KNOW, I GET THE FEELING THAT YOUR TRIBE THINKS I'M GOING TO STAY ON THE MOUNTAIN.

WOULD IT BE SO BAD? IF YOU STAYED?

WELL, NO...

BUT I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE FOREST. WE HAVE A MESSAGE FROM STARCLAN.

STARCLAN? WHAT'S A *STAR CLAN?*

THE SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTOR CATS. THEY WARNED US THAT OUR HOME IS IN DANGER.

I UNDERSTAND. THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING...OUR ANCESTORS...THEY SPEAK TO US TOO.

STONETELLER INTERPRETS THEIR MESSAGES.

HE'S SO SURE ABOUT YOU...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

QUICKLY! EVERY CAT RUN!

CRAG! WHAT--?

SHARPTOOTH! HE'S COME FOR US! IN THE PASS!

SO CLOSE TO THE CAVE?

TALON'S PARTY DREW HIM AWAY.

QUICKLY! QUICK PAWS, NOW!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THERE'S GREAT DANGER. BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO FACE IT.

WHAT'S GOING ON? THEY SAY WE CAN'T LEAVE.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY OUT IF THEY TRY TO STOP US.

WE WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT. THEY WON'T KEEP US HERE AGAINST OUR WILL.

TAWNYPELT? ARE YOU WELL ENOUGH TO TRAVEL?

THANKS TO STONETELLER'S HERBS, I COULD TAKE ON A FOX!

WHY ARE YOU SO EAGER TO STAY? IS BROOK LURING YOU AWAY FROM RIVERCLAN?

SHUT YOUR TEETH, CROWPAW. STORMFUR'S AS LOYAL AS ANY OF US.

I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'LL GO.

YOU CANNOT GO. YOU ARE RIGHT. THERE IS NO TIME.

THE DANGER IS STILL TOO CLOSE. YOUR FATE IS HERE.

OUR FATE? WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING US? WHY ARE YOU TREATING US LIKE PRISONERS?

AS THE STONES HAVE SHOWN ME, I'LL SHOW YOU NOW.

IT IS TIME FOR A TELLING.

WE STAND IN THE CAVE OF POINTED STONES.

MOONRISE IS HERE, CAUGHT IN ROCK AND WATER.

THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING CALLS, AND WE COME TO LISTEN!

IN ROCKS AND POOLS AND AIR AND LIGHT SHINING ON WATER.

THROUGH THE FALL OF PREY AND THE CRY OF OUR NEWBORN KITS.

THROUGH THE SCRAPE OF CLAWS AND THE BEAT OF OUR BLOOD.

WE LISTEN!

WE CALL ON THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING!

SHOW US YOUR WILL!

SHOW US YOUR WILL!

WE GREET YOU, TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR MERCY IN SAVING US AT LAST FROM *SHARPTOOTH.*

WE THANK YOU FOR SENDING *THE PROMISED CAT!*

WE THANK YOU!

LET HIM STAND FORTH!

!

WHAT, ME? YOU THINK I'M THIS PROMISED CAT?

SLIP!

PLOP!

FWISH HHH...

SHARPTOOTH. A GIANT CAT FROM THE MOUNTAIN, HAS PREYED ON OUR TRIBE FOR MANY SEASONS.

I KNEW IT! YOU WERE HIDING SOMETHING!

NOT NOW.

THE WEAKEST OF US FLED.

THE BRAVEST OF US FELL UNDER HIS TERRIBLE FANGS.

THE BEAST WAS DRIVEN TO DESTROY US.

BUT THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING SENT US SIGNS. A *PROMISED CAT* WOULD COME AND *KILL* SHARPTOOTH.

A SILVER CAT, THEY TOLD ME.

A STRANGER FROM FAR-OFF HILLS.

A SILVER CAT?

WE WAITED FOR THAT PROMISED DAY. OUR ONLY HOPE.

SHARPTOOTH HUNTED US, BUT WE WAITED.

WHEN I SAW YOU, I KNEW. THE PROMISED CAT HAD COME.

FOX DUNG! WE'RE LEAVING, AND YOU'D BETTER NOT TRY TO STOP US!

YOU MAY GO. YOUR CLANS ARE IN DANGER AS WELL. YOU MUST SAVE THEM.

SEE? I TOLD YOU THEY'RE NOT OUR ENEMIES.

THAT IS, THE REST OF YOU MAY GO.

STORMFUR CANNOT.

IT IS HIS FATE.

NO. IT'S NOT HIS FATE.

HIS FATE IS WITH STARCLAN.

WE WON'T LET YOU KEEP HIM HERE!

AND WE WON'T ALLOW HIM TO LEAVE.

STONETELLER! HE FOUND US!

SHARPTOOTH IS HERE!

HE'S NEARLY REACHED THE WATERFALL! HE'LL FIND THE CAVE FOR SURE!

WHERE IS THE PROMISED CAT?!

WHY IS HE STILL WAITING?!

THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING SENT YOU TO US FOR *THIS*. FOR YOU TO SLAY SHARPTOOTH.

THIS IS YOUR FATE.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
ATTACK!
STAY WITH ME, SQUIRRELPAW!
HISSS!!
HE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU OR YOUR TRIBE!
HE BELONGS TO US, AND TO STARCLAN!

HURRY! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK FOR LONG!

DO YOU HEAR THAT?

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

MRROWWRRCHH-!

OH... STARCLAN...

HISSSSS

PROW

THIS WAY! WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED!

SSHHK!

STAR!!

KRACK!

SHARPTOOTH'S TAKEN STAR!

DEFEND STONETELLER!!

WHERE IS THE PROMISED CAT?!

NO

AWRR!!

COME ON! LET'S GO!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM!

THAT THING'LL TURN US INTO CROW-FOOD!

WE HAVE TO!

WE HAVE A MISSION! FOR STARCLAN!

THIS ISN'T OUR FIGHT!

THE PROMISED CAT IS LEAVING US! STONETELLER, WHAT DO WE DO?

WHO WILL SAVE US NOW?

WE'RE DOOMED!

STORMFUR!!

HOW DID IT GET SO DARK?

HEY! HEY, WAIT!

SQUIRRELPAW? BRAMBLECLAW? WHERE DID EVERY CAT GO?

STORMFUR.

STARCLAN IS PLEASED WITH YOU, STORMFUR.

STEADFAST AND LOYAL TO YOUR CLAN AND THOSE YOU LOVE.

FEATHERTAIL?

NO, STORMFUR. I'M NOT YOUR SISTER. I'M--

MY MOTHER? SILVERSTREAM?

I AM PROUD OF THE CAT YOU'VE BECOME.

YES, MY DEAR KIT.

THE COURAGE AND FAITH YOU'VE SHOWN.

ARE THEY LESS DESERVING OF THE HELP THEY SEEK?

DO THE CATS OF THE TRIBE NOT SHOW COURAGE AND FAITH IN THEIR ANCESTORS?

NO. THEY AREN'T.

QUESTIONS CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER. AND NOT ALL IS FORETOLD.

NO! DON'T GO!

JOLT

BAD DREAM?

I--I DON'T KNOW.

NO SIGN OF THE TRIBE FOLLOWING US. TOO BUSY WITH SHARPTOOTH.

I THINK I HAVE TO GO BACK.

BACK? BACK TO THE TRIBE?!

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO DIE.

THEY MIGHT NOT BE MY CLAN, BUT THEY NEED MY HELP. WHATEVER HELP I CAN GIVE THEM.

THEY LIED TO US AND PUT US IN DANGER! WE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!

THEY DIDN'T THINK THEY HAD ANY CHOICE.

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?

BUGS-FOR-BRAINS HERE WANTS TO GO BACK AND FIGHT SHARPTOOTH!

WHAT? WHY?!

WE JUST GOT AWAY! WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE FOREST!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT *OUR* QUEST?

BUT I WASN'T SENT BY STARCLAN. I WASN'T CHOSEN. MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.

I'M GOING BACK. I WON'T LEAVE THEM TO DIE.

I WON'T ASK ANY CAT TO COME WITH ME...

HOW ABOUT A VOLUNTEER?

I HAVE A PLAN!

I REMEMBERED HOW THE TRIBE HUNTS, USING BAIT TO LURE PREY IN FOR THE KILL.

WE CAN SET BAIT FOR SHARPTOOTH!

TRIBE HUNTERS TRIED THAT. HE'S TOO BIG FOR THEM. HE'LL BE TOO BIG FOR US.

WHEN WE *ATTACK* HIM. BUT MAYBE...WE CAN *TRICK* HIM.

WE'LL HIDE *DEATHBERRIES* IN A DEAD HARE AND SET IT AS BAIT. SHARPTOOTH'LL EAT IT AND--

AND THAT'S THE END OF SHARPTOOTH!

WOULD IT WORK?

OH NO! POISON!!

NO.

I DON'T KNOW...

IT...MIGHT?

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

GO BACK TO THE FOREST AND WARN THE CLANS?

FINE, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH. STORMFUR WILL BE USELESS IF WE DON'T GO BACK ANYWAY.

TRIBE CATS. THEY'RE CLOSE.

SNIFF SNIFF

THEY'RE HERE. BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

YOU CLAN CATS MAY LEAVE YOUR FALLEN TO THE ELEMENTS. BUT WE BURY OUR DEAD.

STAR.

SHE FELL TO SHARPTOOTH.

I'M SORRY. THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE.

NO. "NOTHING" IS WHAT YOU DID. WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE.

WE'RE HERE TO DO SOMETHING NOW! WE HAVE A PLAN IF YOU'LL HEAR IT.

NOW YOU HAVE A PLAN. YOU HAD NONE *BEFORE* STAR WAS TAKEN FROM US?

NOW WE HAVE A *CHOICE!*

PLEASE! TELL US YOUR PLAN. IF IT WILL SAVE CATS TOMORROW, WE MUST TRY.

SIGH

BROOK IS RIGHT. WE MUST.

BUT BEFORE WE HEAR YOUR PLAN, YOU'LL HELP US BURY STAR. YOU'LL HONOR HER WITH US.

HE'S SO CLOSE TO THE CAVES. HE'LL FIND IT SOON, AND THEN...

DON'T WORRY, TALON. HE WON'T GET THAT FAR.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME WITH US, STORMFUR.

WE HAVE MANY SPEEDY CATS AMONG THE TRIBE.

I NEED TO COME. IT'S THE LEAST A PROMISED CAT CAN DO.

DON'T WORRY. I CAN DO IT.

RUB

I HAVE FAITH IN YOU. THE TRIBE OF ENDLESS HUNTING WILL GUIDE OUR PAWS.

HEY, RAT-BRAIN!

ANYONE EVER TELL YOU, YOU SMELL LIKE A DOG?!

HUFF!

gnrRAWRR!!

CAREFUL NOT TO LICK THE BERRIES.

WHY DOES EVERY CAT THINK I'M GOING TO EAT THEM?

IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT. HIDING WHEN THERE'S A FIGHT.

IF THE DEATHBERRIES DON'T KILL HIM, WE'RE HERE TO FINISH HIM OFF.

KHI KHI KHI!

BROOK'S CALL. THEY'RE COMING.

COME ON, STORMFUR. YOU CAN DO IT.

HURRY! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

SNIFF SNIFF

RAWR-RR-H

SWIPE!

IT DIDN'T WORK!

GNRAWWR!!

GET YOURSELVES SAFE!

SLAM!

HIDE!!

TALON!!

SHARPTOOTH HAS CLAIMED ENOUGH OF US!

NO MORE!

WE'LL END SHARPTOOTH'S TYRANNY TODAY...OR WE'LL LEAVE HIM NO MORE CATS TO HUNT!

TALON!

I'LL BE BEHIND YOU! GO!

STORMFUR!

HEAD FOR THE WATERFALL! LOSE HIM IN THE CAVES!

THE CAVES?

TRUST ME. I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

RUN!

GO!!

CROWPAW! WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM!

NO, NOT *WE.*

I...HEAR VOICES.

THIS IS FOR *ME* TO DO.

RUB

FEATHERTAIL, NO!!

CRACK!

SMASH

A...

SILVER...

CAT...

CRNCH

FEATHERTAIL!!

NO NO NO NO NO NO!!!

no...

DID...I DO IT?

YOU--? YOU DID! YOU SAVED THE TRIBE...

YOU SAVED ME.

THINK YOU HAVE NINE LIVES, DO YOU?

I SAVED YOU JUST NOW...DON'T MAKE ME SAVE YOU AGAIN.

FEATHERTAIL, DON'T GO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME!

I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU. I PROMISE.

STARCLAN...

WHY...?

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

CLOUDTAIL'S SCENT ENDS HERE. BRIGHTHEART'S TOO.

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

IS THIS WHERE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM?

I HOPE NOT. HOW COULD WE TELL?

MOUSEFUR THINKS THEY LEFT TO BE KITTYPETS.

THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE WHITEPAW. THEIR OWN KIT?

SHE'S ASKING TO JOIN THE SEARCH.

SIGH

I'LL TALK TO HER.

THE CLAN HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE DAPPLETAIL DIED.

I HAVEN'T SEEN SPIRITS THIS LOW IN A LONG TIME.

NOT LONG ENOUGH.

THEY'RE SCARED, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO TELL THEM. WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?

WHAT SHOULD I DO DIFFERENTLY?

THIS ISN'T YOUR DOING, FIRESTAR.

BUT I'M THE ONE THE CLAN LOOKS TO, THE ONE TO SEE US THROUGH.

AND I FEAR I'M GOING TO FAIL THEM.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY STARCLAN HAS BEEN SO QUIET.

YOU SEE IT?

NOW!

SPLISH

SLIP!

SPLORSH

HA HA!

OOPS!

THE POINT IS TO PULL THE FISH OUT OF THE WATER. NOT TO JUMP IN AFTER IT!

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! THUNDERCLAN CATS AREN'T MEANT TO FISH!

YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT.

WELL, I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE FISHING ANYWAY. WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EAT PREY FROM OTHER CLANS.

NORMALLY, SURE...

BUT WE'RE MEDICINE CATS.

NORMAL CLAN BOUNDARIES DON'T APPLY TO US!

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I KNOW PREY IS HARD TO COME BY IN THUNDERCLAN.

EYE ROLL

WE HAVE ALL THE FISH WE CAN EAT IN RIVERCLAN. MORE THAN WE NEED!

I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I LET YOU STARVE.

THAT FISH DID LOOK PRETTY TASTY...

GO ON. KEEP UP YOUR STRENGTH SO YOU CAN LOOK AFTER THE SICK.

NOT TOO FAST. YOU'LL MAKE *YOURSELF* SICK.

IT'S SOOOO GOOOD...

ANY TIME YOU'RE HUNGRY, COME FIND ME. MISTYFOOT HERSELF SAID WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT.

I'M TAKING OUT THE MORNING PATROL. BRACKENFUR AND WHITEPAW ARE WITH ME.

JOINING THE PATROL TODAY, ARE YOU? DO US PROUD.

EYES OPEN FOR SIGNS OF CLOUDTAIL AND BRIGHTHEART. WE HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON FINDING YOUR PARENTS, WHITEPAW.

THANK YOU, FIRESTAR.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR PREY WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

LARCHKIT.

IT WASN'T HER FAULT.

FERNCLOUD.

IT WASN'T HER FAULT.

SHE TRIED TO NURSE THE KITS BUT SHE WASN'T EATING AND--

MY KIT...

MY BEAUTIFUL KIT...

STARCLAN, WHEN WILL THIS END?

THERE ARE ALWAYS FISH IN THE RIVER...

MAYBE NO OTHER CAT HAS TO STARVE.

MOTHWING?

ANY CAT? I'M A FRIEND OF MOTHWING. AND MISTYFOOT?

I'M A MEDICINE CAT! WELL, AN APPRENTICE, BUT WE'RE ALLOWED TO--I MEAN--

SIGH

WHAT AM I DOING?

TRESPASSING, FROM THE LOOK OF IT.

!

WHUMP

HAWKFROST! I WAS LOOKING FOR--

TROUBLE? YOU FOUND IT.

BOLD OF A THUNDERCLAN APPRENTICE TO TRESPASS INTO RIVERCLAN SO OFTEN.

A CAT MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS.

SUSPICIOUS? OF ME? MISTYFOOT HERSELF CALLED ME A *FRIEND OF RIVERCLAN.* YOU WERE THERE!

MISTYFOOT?! THE COWARD?

THE DESERTER? MISTYFOOT IS *GONE!*

WHAT?

YOUR *FRIEND* ISN'T HERE TO SAVE YOU.

SAVE ME? FROM WHAT? WOULD YOU HURT A MEDICINE CAT?

OF COURSE NOT.

BUT YOU'RE JUST AN APPRENTICE. AREN'T YOU?

LET HER GO!

WHAT?

IF YOU HURT A CLAN LEADER'S KIT, THE WHOLE CLAN WILL ATTACK.

LET THEM. THEY'RE STARVING; THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR US.

WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FIGHT LEFT TO MAKE YOU SORRY YOU TRIED.

HISS!

THAT'S WHY. RIVERCLAN WARRIORS WILL STILL GET HURT.

WAIT THEM OUT.

LET THEM STARVE FOR ANOTHER SEASON.

THEN THEY'LL PUT UP NO FIGHT AT ALL.

GO ON, THEN. GET OUT OF HERE.

SCURRY BACK TO THUNDERCLAN.

MAKE SURE SHE LEAVES OUR TERRITORY.

IF I CATCH HER IN RIVERCLAN AGAIN, SHE'LL BE CROW-FOOD.

NO MATTER WHO HER FATHER IS.

SORRELTAIL WAS RIGHT.

HAWKFROST *DOES* LOOK LIKE BRAMBLECLAW.

WHAT I SAID ABOUT THUNDERCLAN, I DIDN'T MEAN IT.

HE GETS SO SERIOUS SOMETIMES AND JUST NEEDS TO CALM DOWN.

OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND. YOU WERE...PROTECTING ME.

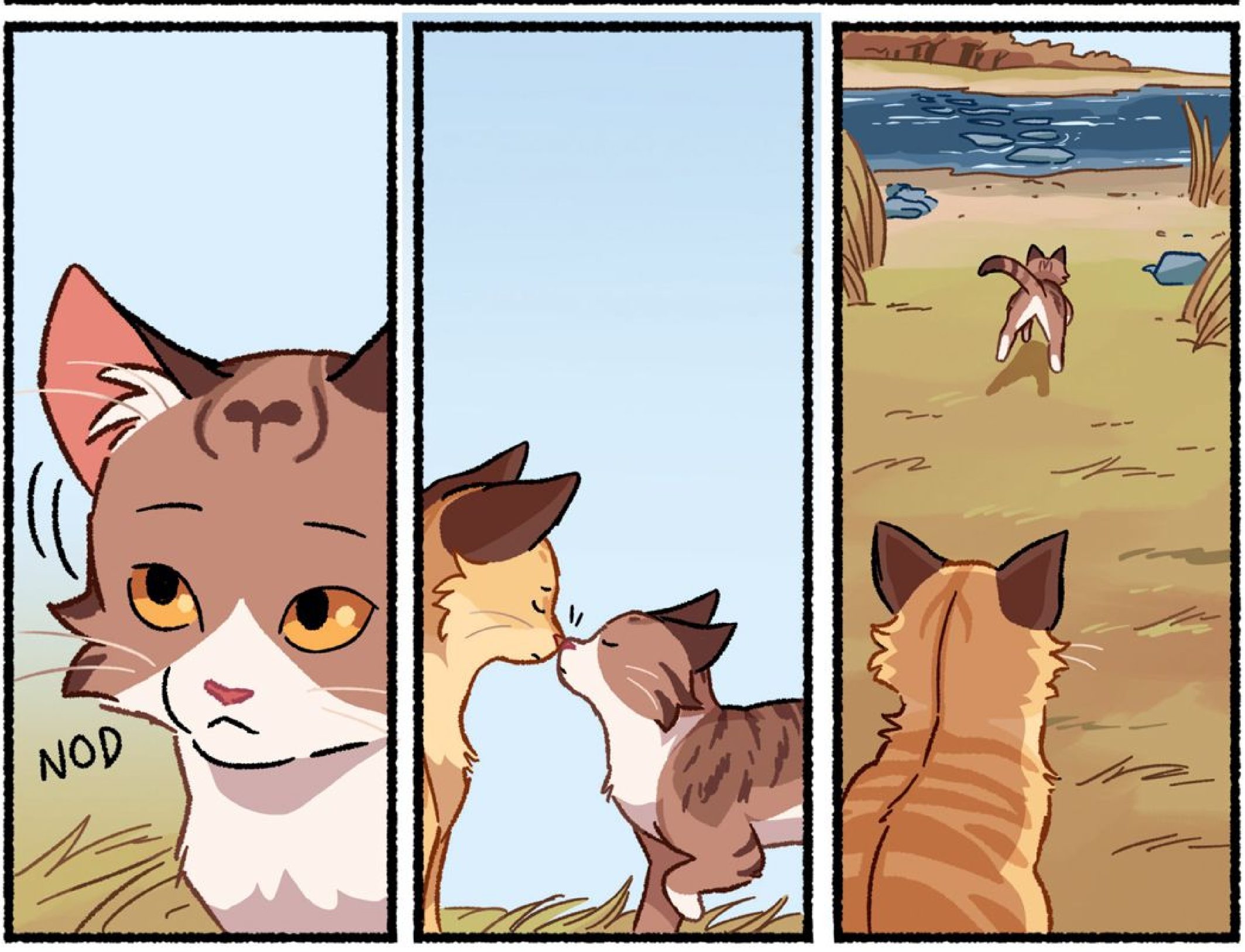
CATS SAY YOUR MOTHER WAS A ROGUE. SASHA?

YES.

NO CAT SAYS WHO YOUR FATHER WAS.

WAS YOUR FATHER...TIGERSTAR?

YES.



NOD

WHAT'S THAT SCENT?
IT'S COMING FROM THERE.
IT SMELLS LIKE FOOD, BUT...
IS THAT KITTYPET FOOD? I'M SO HUNGRY EVEN *THAT* SMELLS GOOD.
JUST ONE BITE...
CRNCH

LEAFPAW! I FOUND YOU!

MOUSEFUR'S BEEN ATTACKED! THE TWOLEGS ARE COMING!

GET OUT OF THERE!

MOUSEFUR? *TWOLEGS?!*

KLK!

SNAP!

SORRELTAIL?!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

SQUIRRELPAW?

TO BE CONTINUED...

ERIN HUNTER is inspired by a love of cats and a fascination with the ferocity of the natural world. She is the author of the Warriors, Seekers, Survivors, Bravelands, Bamboo Kingdom, and Renegades series. Erin lives in the UK.

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DARKNESS, AIR, WATER, AND SKY will shake the forest to its roots. The wild cats of the forest have lived in peace for many moons—but when Brambleclaw, a warrior of ThunderClan, receives an ominous prophecy from StarClan that speaks of a mysterious danger, he must rally the fiercest warriors from all the Clans to seek answers in the mountains.

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